

# BLACKIE'S SENIOR HISTORIES

*General Editor.*

ALFRED FLAVELL, M A.

Formerly Inspector of Schools, Birmingham

BOOK TWO

ENGLAND UNDER THE  
TUDORS AND STEWARTS



LONDON  
 Printed by E. A. for Nicholas Ling, and are to be  
 solde at his shop at the west doore of Saint  
 Pauls Church. 1600.

#### A SIXTEENTH-CENTURY MARATHON

This is an illustration published in 1600 showing William Kemp, a comedian, dancing morris fashion from London to Norwich, accompanied by his tabourer. He took a month for the journey, and was followed by crowds all the way, and at the end his buskins were deposited in Norwich Guildhall. Requests reached him from villages on the route that he would pass through them.

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BOOK TWO

ENGLAND UNDER THE  
TUDORS AND STEWARTS

1485-1688

BY

MARION FLAVELL

Formerly Head Mistress of Windsor Street Girls' School, Birmingham

AND

S E MATTS

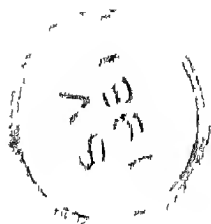
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### BLACKIE'S SENIOR HISTORIES

General Editor Alfred Flavell, M A

BOOK I—England in Early Times  
55 B C—A D 1485 By Marion Flavell and  
S E Matts

BOOK II—England Under the Tudors  
and Stewarts 1485—1688 By Marion  
Flavell and S E Matts

BOOK III—England in Modern Times  
1688—The Present Day Amy M Mobbs,  
B A

First issued 1935

Reprinted 1935, 1936, 1939, 1940,

1942, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1948, 1950, 1951

1953, 1955, 1956, 1957

## PREFACE

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This book can have no better introduction than the following extract from the *Handbook of Suggestions for Teachers*

"Self-education should be the key-note of the older children's curriculum, just as free expression is of the youngest children's, but in neither case is it expected that the teacher will abdicate.

"On the contrary, his work under the conditions which he will seek to establish is in some ways more difficult, certainly more delicate, than in the collective class lessons, varied by collective class questioning which have hitherto formed the staple of instruction, and must of course always have a place in it

"If he is to deal properly with the private study of a senior class, he must know thoroughly the ground that is to be covered, *he must provide or suggest the exercises or problems to be attacked, and he must satisfy himself subsequently that what has been done by the individual scholar is really grasped*

"Work on these lines obviously requires the provision of suitable books, without a good historical textbook and atlas, for instance, private study of history or geography is impossible.

"A school library of good works of reference for use by teachers and scholars is of great value

"But however excellent books or equipment may be, the instruction will only have its full effect when the teacher

realizes that his *chief task is to teach the scholars to teach themselves* and adapts his methods steadily to that end "

It will readily be seen that every provision has been made in this book for the scholar to work on the lines suggested by the Board of Education.

From the practical experience of the authors, it has been proved to be the most effective way of training pupils " to teach themselves "

We suggest the following plan to the teacher as a general guide to the routine to be adopted

1. *An oral lesson* should be given by the teacher at the beginning of each period's work, to arouse the interest of the pupil and to introduce the subject-matter

2 *Note-making from selected headings* —These headings will put the child right as to the essentials for his note-making, ensure that nothing important is omitted, provide an orderly and useful revision book for the scholar at the end of the term; and be a permanent record worth keeping by the child

3 *General arrangement of notes* —Scholars should be encouraged to obtain pictures, to make drawings, and to trace maps, which illustrate the period they are studying This will stimulate their interest and make their note-books more attractive and useful They should also make notes of any additional details, not mentioned in the textbook, which they may obtain from the books recommended for reference purposes and general reading The note-books must be marked by the teacher

4. *The actual study of the period's history.*—This will call for close supervision by the teacher, who must always be ready to guide the pupils or to explain difficulties

5 *Answering questions in the exercises on the subject-matter and the extracts* —This should be done without reference to the text. It will thus be a test of the work done during the period.

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## NOTES ON THE ILLUSTRATIONS

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**A Sixteenth-century Marathon** (*Frontispiece*) From a wood-cut in the Bodleian Library, Oxford

**Henry VII** (p. 16) From a portrait painted in 1505 and now in the National Portrait Gallery, London. He wears the collar and badge of the Golden Fleece

**Sovereign** (p. 18) From a specimen in the British Museum. The first sovereigns were coined in 1489. The most valuable coin until then had been the rose-noble (ten-shillings)

**Map of the World** (p. 23) A much simplified version of the globe made by Martin Behaim in 1492. It is now at Nuremberg. Seilan, for Ceylon, is according to Marco Polo, and Taprobana is according to Ptolemy

**The "Santa Maria"** (p. 25) From a photograph of a model in the Science Museum, London. The hull is carvel built, with round bows, square stern, and on the sides it is strengthened externally with horizontal wales and vertical skids. There are three masts and a bowsprit, the latter carrying a square spritsail. The fore- and main-masts are square rigged, but the mizzen-mast has a lateen sail.

**Christ Church College** (p. 35) From a photograph. Under the name of Cardinal College it was licensed by the king in 1525 and its erection began immediately.

**Martin Luther in his House at Wittenberg** (p. 38) From a painting made in 1865 by Baron Jean Auguste Henri Leys.

**A Judge** (p. 45) From a survey of the lands of the Benedictine Abbey of S. John at Colchester, made in 1540, and now in the British Museum. The judge has just tried and condemned Abbot Becke, who was accused of high treason in 1539, the real crime being his refusal to surrender his house.

**A Warship** (p. 47) From a photograph of a model of the *Great Harry* lent by the Department of Overseas Trade. She was about 1000 tons burden, and had a crew of 700 men with an armament of 20 to 30 cannon and a large number of smaller guns.

**The Coronation Procession of Edward VI** (pp 56, 57) From an engraving of a contemporary painting in the possession of the Society of Antiquaries. The artist has attempted to confine the whole route from the Tower to Westminster in one plate. Cheapside Cross can be seen on the extreme right of p 56. The large church seen on the left of p 56 is meant for St Mary Le Bow. The church on the south side of the river is St Mary Overy. On p 57 Old St Pauls, Lud Gate, Temple Bar, and Charing Cross can be more or less identified.

**The Entry of Queen Mary and Princess Elizabeth** (p 61) Reproduced from a painting by Byam Shaw, R.I., by permission of The Fine Arts Publishing Co., Ltd. The Queen is shown raising the Duke of Norfolk, who is kneeling beside Bishop Gardiner. Other state prisoners of the previous reign kneel behind.

**Queen Elizabeth** (p 68) From a painting by an unknown contemporary artist in the collection of the Duke of Devonshire. She is shown wearing the farthingale. This was a round petticoat made of canvas distended with whalebone, cane hoops, or steel strips covered with taffeta, and the brocade or velvet skirts were worn over this. Notice the ruff of fine lace.

**John Knox** (p 73) From a wood engraving in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh. The engraving was a plate to a volume published by Theodore Beza at Geneva in 1580, and is supposed to have been engraved from a painting by the Flemish painter Adrian Vaensoun.

**Sir Francis Drake** (p 78) From a painting attributed to Marc Gheeraerts, the Elder. Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, and by courtesy of Messrs Spink & Sons, Ltd. The painting was made when Drake was just over fifty years old.

**A Warship** (p 83) From a photograph of a model of the *Revenge* lent by the Department of Overseas Trade. H.M.S. *Revenge* was built at Deptford in 1575, carried 46 guns and had a ship's company of 250, composed of 140 marines, 30 gunners, and 80 soldiers. Vessels of this period were steered by a whipstaff consisting of a pivoted handle the lower end of which engaged with the end of the tiller, while the upper end was moved from side to side by the helmsman. Length of keel, 92 feet, breadth, 30 feet, depth of hold, 15 feet approximately.

**Queen Elizabeth Goes on a Visit** (p 88) From an engraving of a painting by Marc Gheeraerts, the Elder, in the collection of Colonel Wingfield Digby, Sherborne Castle, Dorset. Note the knights in their chains and their garters on the left leg (the photograph has been reversed so that in the illustration they appear on the right leg).

**Irish Soldier** (p 91) Reproduced from a Charter granted by Queen Elizabeth to Dublin in 1582-3 The original is in the archives of the Municipal Corporation of Dublin

**Soldiers** (pp 92 and 93) Both illustrations are from engravings in J de Gheyn's *Manement d'Armes* engraved in 1608

The man on p 92 is a pikeman and was armed with a pike the staff of which was from 12 to 18 feet long He was dressed in a head-piece or morion, a gorget or neck-piece, a corslet or breast-plate with taces (See p 182, Book I)

The man on p 93 is a harquebusier armed with a harquebus (a matchlock gun) A cock was fixed to the harquebus to hold the match, which was brought down to the prining in the flash-pan by a trigger The harquebusier could fire about thirty shots an hour in fine weather

**Old London Bridge** (p 96) Reproduced from a part of Vischer's Panorama of London made in 1616 The original is in the British Museum The church in the foreground is St Mary Overy, which appears in the earlier view on p 56

**The Globe Theatre** (pp 98 and 99) The exterior is from an engraving published in the reign of James I

The interior view is from a reconstruction painting by George Pyecroft The last scene of the first part of King Henry IV is in progress

The locality of the scene was usually indicated by signboards, such as are seen in the picture

**Elizabethan Architecture** (p 111) From a photograph of Montacute House, Somerset, built during the years 1580-1601 in the form of an H in plan The principal entrance bears the hospitable motto "Through this wide opening gate none come too early, none return too late"

**Elizabethan Rooms** (p 113) These are photographs of rooms erected in the Victoria and Albert Museum, London All the furnishings are contemporary pieces

**Elizabethan Costumes** (p 116) Reproduced from Caspar Rutz's *Habitus Variarum Orbis Gentium*, 1581 The young man on the right wears a leather doublet, and a jekun with long skirts buttoned to the waist

The woman next him wears an apron, an article which was worn by all classes, and which was at times very elaborate The lady with a fan wears a funnel-shaped farthingale The topmost dress of this lady is the "Robe", which is fastened up the front, but showing below the kirtle underneath

**A Cithern** (p 122) A sixteenth- and seventeenth-century instrument of the lute kind, but wire strung, and played with a plectrum or quill.

**Transport in Tudor Times** (p. 123) From the diorama in the Science Museum, London

**James I of England** (p 131) From the painting by Van Somer at Hampton Court Palace.

**Boys' Games** (p 133) A copy of an illustration in the English edition, 1659, of Comenius's *Orbis sensualium pictus*

**The "Mayflower"** (p 136) From a photograph of a model in the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh Little is known of the Pilgrim Fathers' ship beyond her tonnage—about 180 tons—that she was comparatively old in 1620, and that her normal voyages were to Western European ports

**James I sitting in Parliament** (p 139) From an engraving by Roger Elstack

**Charles I** (p 144) From the painting by Van Dyck in the Musée National du Louvre, Paris Sir Anthony Van Dyck came to England for the second time in 1632 and was appointed painter-in-ordinary to Charles

**A Bellman** (p 149) From the title-page of a broadside published in 1616, and now in the British Museum

**A Pikeman** (p 151) His armour consists of a pot helmet with cheek pieces, a back plate and breast-plate, and right and left tassets Modelled from *Ancient Arms and Armour*, by Dr Meyrick and Joseph Skelton, F S A (See also p 161)

**Soldiers of the Civil War** (p 161) Modelled from *Ancient Arms and Armour*, by Dr Meyrick and Joseph Skelton, F S A On the left is a cuirassier He wore a cuirass (shown above the figure) as armour over a coat of rough leather, a head-piece or casque which has protection for the neck and cheeks, and a bar in front to protect the face from sabre cuts. The date of the figure is 1645

The next figure is a dismounted soldier of the Parliament He wore a barred helmet, steel breast-plate, steel gauntlet on the left hand, and a leather gauntlet on the right The mounted man is a dragoon of 1645 The dragoons were first raised in 1600, and in the time of Charles I were clad in "a buffe coat with deepe skirts, and had an open head-piece with cheeks" He carried a matchlock musket (See also p 151)

**The Escape of Charles II** (p 167) From an engraving by Michel Van der Gucht in the possession of The Hon Mrs Greville-Nugent The King in disguise is riding before Mrs Lane Lord Wilmot is in the distance holding a hawk

**An English Warship** (p 169) From a contemporary engraving of *The Sovereign of the Seas* in the Science Museum, London. This ship was laid down at Woolwich in 1636 under the supervision of the great shipbuilder Mr Phincas Pett She was the first vessel with three flush decks Her tonnage was 1637 tons; length overall, 232 feet, breadth, 48 feet, armament, 100 guns

**Cromwell Expelling Parliament** (p 173) This is reproduced from a contemporary satirical Dutch print preserved in the British Museum Cromwell, Lambert, and Cooper are bidding the members "begone" Harrison is helping the Speaker to leave the chair Near the chair Cromwell is shown again with the mace in his hand and in the act of driving out a goose with a peacock's tail Notice the owl, a frequent figure in Dutch satirical compositions of this period "Of what use are candles and spectacles when the owl will not see?"

**Costume of the Seventeenth Century** (pp 178 and 179). During the reign of James I, padded breeches were worn by the men and large farthingales by the women, but with Charles I came a change Breeches were no longer padded, two pairs of stockings were worn—the outer shorter than the inner, and edged with lace, which showed above the wide boots. The ruff was displaced by a large lace-edged collar and cuffs Ladies' skirts were caught back to show the embroidered petticoat Masks were worn by Court ladies in public

Notice the man of the time of Charles II The tunic has given place to what is the beginning of the coat and waist-coat Wide collars are replaced by a small lace cravat Long curled wigs are worn by all men The well-to-do merchants' dress is mid-way between the extravagance of the Cavalier and the severity of the Puritan

**A Horn-book** (p 181) From a specimen in the Bodleian Library, Oxford

**A Coach** (p 185) The body of the coach is suspended from poles by means of leather braces It is framed in wood covered with leather and studded with nails, and the roof is domed There are no glass windows, only curtains, and the door is formed by a leather curtain hanging from a bar

**An Inn** (p 186) This is from a photograph of the George, Norton St Philip, Somerset It dates from the fifteenth century

**A Sedan Chair** (p 188) From a specimen in the Science Museum, London

**A Post-chaise** (p 189) From an engraving in the Science Museum, London, of an eighteenth-century specimen

**Charles II Landing at Dover** (p 200) From an engraving of a picture by Adrian van der Venne (1589-1662)

**The Reflecting Telescope** (p 201) Made by Sir Isaac Newton in 1671 It is now in the possession of The Royal Society

**Quakers in the Seventeenth Century** (p 207) From a painting by Ernest Board which is in the Art Gallery, Bristol

**A Church Built by Wren** (p 212) This is from a photograph of the interior of St Mary-le-Bow, London



# FIRST PERIOD

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## PASSING OF THE MIDDLE AGES

### The Tudor Peace

When Henry Tudor won the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485, he put an end to the Civil Wars which had raged for over thirty years, and established that peace, known as the "Tudor Peace", which lasted throughout the reigns of the five Tudor sovereigns. A peaceful land is usually a prosperous one—and great developments and discoveries took place during the next two centuries when our modern world began to be born.

### Henry VII—1485-1509

To keep order among the great nobles, England needed a strong king. She found one in Henry VII, whose aims throughout his reign were.

- (1) To make his lands safe from internal and foreign foes;
- (2) To establish firmly the Tudor dynasty;
- (3) To help English merchants to become prosperous, and to increase their trade at home, and their reputation abroad.

He set out at once to carry out his first aim, by



Henry VII

marrying his cousin Elizabeth, the "White Rose" of England, daughter of Edward IV. This marriage partly healed the breach between Lancastrians and Yorkists, and, as a sign that the two families were now joined, Henry took as his crest, a rose composed of white and red petals

Two rebellions disturbed the early years of Henry's reign, but they were both put down with



ease; and Henry proceeded to strengthen his position on the English throne.

### How Henry Ruled the Nobles

It had been the custom for the great English nobles to keep a large number of armed servants or "retainers", who wore the livery of their lord, and were constantly fighting and robbing their immediate neighbours. Henry forbade this, and passed a Statute to render it illegal. The king was very strict in enforcing his laws. On one occasion, when he was entertained very lavishly by his friend the Earl of Oxford, and the Earl's retainers were mustered to do him honour, Henry said, "I thank you, my lord, for your cheer, but I cannot have my laws broken in my sight. My Attorney must speak with you." The result was a £15,000 fine for the noble.

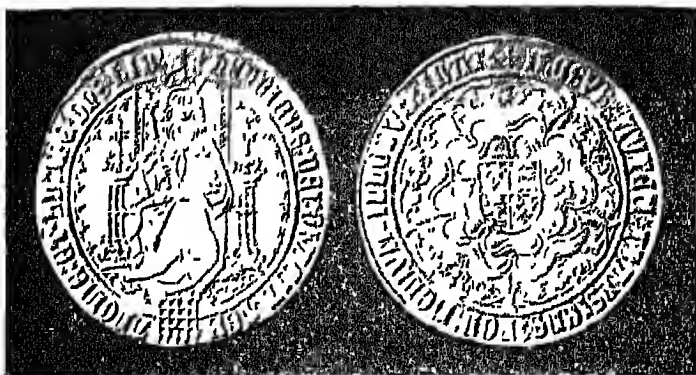
To prevent the ordinary Courts showing sympathy with powerful nobles and others accused of crimes, or accepting bribes to give light sentences to offenders, Henry VII set up a special Court of the Privy Council which was known as the Star Chamber, from the decoration of the room in which it sat at Westminster. This Court was formed of the king's principal counsellors and two judges, and it was sufficiently powerful to pass sentences on offenders of the highest rank.

Gunpowder was now making the strongest and heaviest armour useless in war; and Henry VII would not allow the nobles to have cannon—the only artillery in the country belonging to the king

himself. Thus, if occasion arose, he could batter down the castle of a rebel baron with ease.

#### How Henry Strengthened the Tudor Dynasty

Henry VII, believing that money was power, heaped up treasure by every means he could think of, with the aid of his ministers Morton, Empson,



Both sides of a gold sovereign coined in the reign of Henry VII  
Its value was twenty shillings

and Dudley. By benevolences or forced loans, huge sums of money were collected from the wealthy; and the Court of Star Chamber imposed heavy fines, all of which went to fill the king's coffers. Henry raised money to go to war with France in 1492, and then persuaded Charles VIII of France to pay him a very large sum, on condition that he returned to England without fighting. So immense was his wealth that, when he died, he left £1,800,000, which was an enormous sum in those days.

### **How Henry Fostered Trade at Home and Abroad**

One of the wise ways in which Henry VII spent part of his great wealth was in building ships. With him began England's progress at sea. Desiring to have a navy worthy of England, and knowing that English merchants needed more and better ships to increase their trade with other countries, Henry VII built a number of merchant ships. These were armed to protect themselves if occasion arose, and they helped to put down sea-piracy and to protect the coasts.

Realizing that the greatness of a country largely depends upon its wealth, Henry VII concluded a number of treaties with foreign countries, to safeguard and improve trade at home and abroad. The most important of these was the Great Intercourse, which was made with Flanders and Holland to secure the Flemish market for British wool. English merchants were further helped by skilled foreign workmen, who were invited to settle in England for the purpose of teaching the English new industries.

### **Rise of the Woollen Industry**

After the Black Death, the scarcity of labour caused many landowners to enclose—that is, fence in—their ploughed lands and commence sheep farming. This greatly increased the production of wool, and many of the peasants who were thrown out of employment by the new system of sheep rearing, were obliged to find other ways of earning a living. In many cases they did this by spinning or weaving wool. Some sought a master in the towns,

where they learned, generally from Flemish settlers, some branch of trade belonging to the preparation of cloth. The gilds, however, with their strict rules of apprenticeship, prevented many of these peasants from working in the towns, so they set up a loom or spinning wheel in their own country homes, where they had not to obey the rules of the gilds. As the unmarried daughters most frequently did the spinning, the term "spinster" was first applied to them.

The raw wool was generally supplied to these cottagers by merchants or clothiers, who paid very low wages for the work done. Thus the poor peasants were obliged to work long hours to earn a bare livelihood. However, the cloth trade flourished to such an extent that Englishmen had more cloth than they needed, in spite of the fact that laws were passed compelling people to wear garments of English cloth on Feast days and Sundays. Then English merchants began to export cloth, instead of raw wool, to Flanders and Holland. The Flemings refused to allow this for some time, but the treaty already mentioned, made by Henry VII in 1496, captured the Flemish market for English cloth.

#### A New Foreign Policy

The rise of Spain and Portugal as great naval and commercial powers, and the increase of our trade with continental countries, made Henry VII anxious to strengthen the position of England and establish her as an important nation in Europe. He did this, to a great extent, by making suitable marriages and

foreign treaties. The Treaty of Etaples in 1492 gave us peace with France; while in 1496 a valuable commercial treaty was made with Flanders

Henry married his eldest son, Arthur, to Katharine of Aragon, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain. Arthur, however, died soon after; but Henry, unwilling to repay the large dowry he had received, immediately arranged that the young widow should take his second son, the future Henry VIII, as her next husband. With a view to uniting England with Scotland, he cemented a friendship with that country by the marriage of his daughter, Margaret, with the Scottish king, James IV—a marriage that was to be one of the most important in English history—for a hundred years later it joined the English and Scottish crowns. Henry's youngest daughter, Mary, married Louis XII of France, and after his death she married the Duke of Suffolk. The granddaughter of this second marriage was the unhappy Lady Jane Grey.

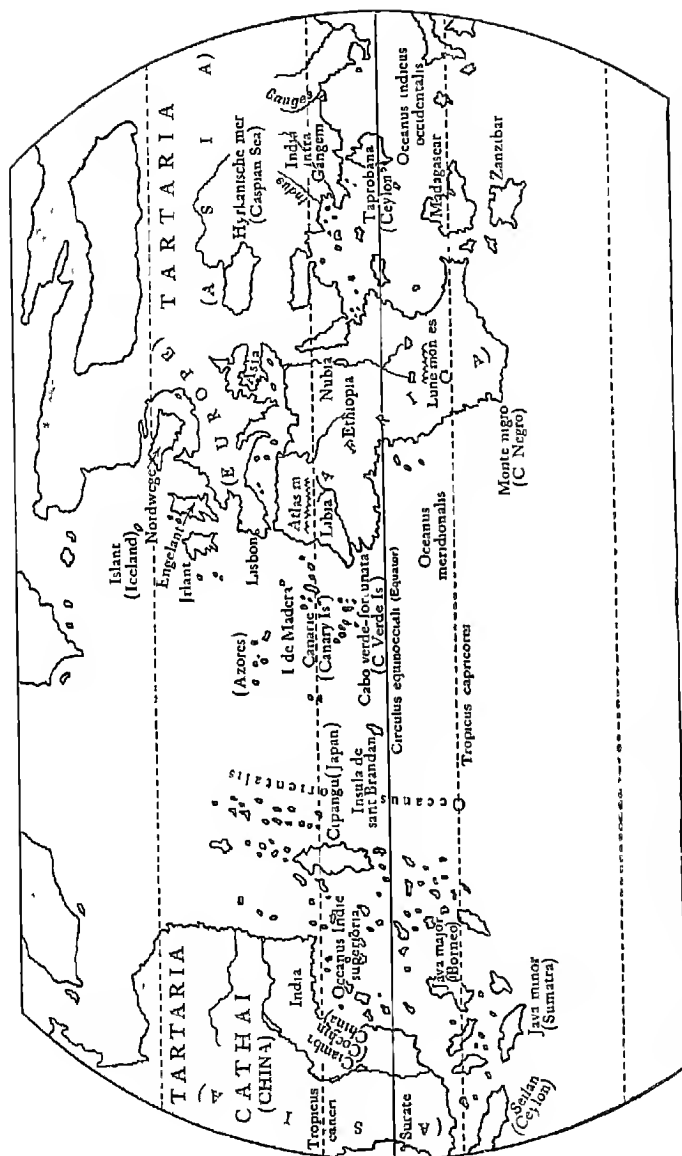
Henry VII brought Wales and Ireland into closer touch with England than they had ever been before. As the Tudors were of Welsh descent, the people of Wales were proud of them and devotedly loyal to them. Sir Edward Poyning was sent to Ireland, and in 1492 Poyning's law was passed. This declared (1) that all English laws were to apply to Ireland also; (2) that from that time no parliament was to sit in Ireland except by the king's permission; and (3) that the Irish parliament could not make laws, unless the English king and his Council had approved of them.

### The Age of Discovery

Henry VII's reign saw many important discoveries. Most of the luxuries, such as gorgeous silks, gold, jewels, spices, rare woods, and all sorts of fruits, were not to be found in England, but had to be brought from the far-away countries of the east, such as Arabia, India, and China. The trade routes by which these things were brought, were partly by sea or river, and partly by land. Hence the goods had to be changed from the ships to the land, and from the land to the ships, several times, and the cost was very great. Also the Turks, after the capture of Constantinople in 1453, refused to allow foreign merchants to use many of the old trade routes

These difficulties led the merchants to promise great rewards to anyone who could find a new way to India and China, or discover new countries from which they could obtain their goods. The invention of the Mariner's Compass, which enabled sailors to find out the direction in which they were sailing, made it possible for mariners to steer their course even when out of sight of land, and when no stars were visible. Thus they began to venture fearlessly into unknown waters, seeking new trade routes and fresh lands

In the middle ages, the existence of America, Australia, New Zealand, and the greater part of Africa was unknown. Moreover, people were only just beginning to realize that the world is round. The first man to round the Cape of Good Hope,



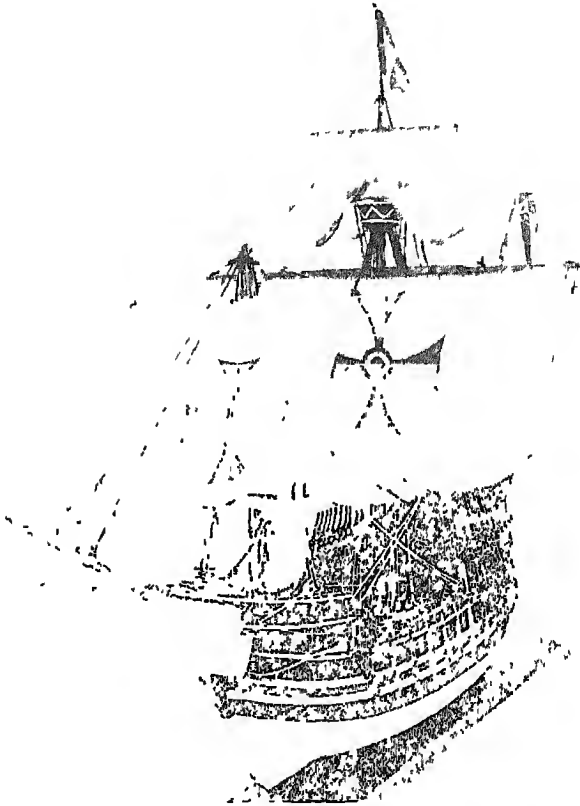
A map of the World as it was thought to be in 1492 Notice that America does not appear The names in brackets are the modern ones

in the south of Africa, was Bartholomew Diaz, in 1486.

Christopher Columbus, a Genoese sailor, after appealing in vain to Henry VII for funds to equip an expedition to the west, at last succeeded in persuading the King and Queen of Spain to grant him three ships, so that he might find a new way to India. He set out in 1492, and, after seventy days on an unknown ocean, was still without a sight of land. Mutiny broke out aboard his ship and his crew threatened to throw him overboard. Columbus persuaded them to be patient a little longer; and a few days later, land appeared on the horizon. They had reached a group of islands which Columbus thought were part of India—so he called the new land the Indies. Columbus made three other voyages, discovering Central America and the north coast of South America. Then the islands he had first discovered were renamed the West Indies, to distinguish them from the Indies in the east.

Encouraged by the success of the Spaniards, who had provided Columbus with money, the Portuguese sent out Vasco da Gama in 1497 to the east. He rounded the Cape of Good Hope and crossed the seas to India during the next year, 1498. Thus were laid the foundations of a great trade between Portugal and India. Henry VII granted "letters patent"—that is, permission—to John Cabot, a Venetian, and his three sons, to fit out an expedition at their own expense, provided they would give him a share in their gains. In May, 1497, Cabot sailed from Bristol, and, after fifty-two days, reached





The *Santa Maria*    A model of the ship in which Columbus sailed

what he thought to be the coast of Asia, though we now know it was Newfoundland. He landed and took possession of the island in the name of Henry VII. This discovery was immensely important to England, because it showed that our country no longer lay on the outside edge of the world, as had

been thought before. The king gave Cabot £10 for this discovery—the following appearing in his account book: "To hym that found the New Isle £10".

Amerigo Vespucci, a native of Florence, sailed westward about 1500, and discovered Brazil. America got its name from him, because people thought he had discovered it.

To Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese, who was in the service of the King of Spain, belongs the glory of discovering the true geographical position of America. He had five little ships, when he set out in 1519, and enough stores to last two years. Magellan sailed along the east coast of South America in a southerly direction, passed through the straits named after him, and then for ninety days crossed the immense ocean which he named the Pacific, or peaceful. He gave it this name because he had found the waters of the Magellan Straits stormy and ice-bound. Great hardships were suffered—supplies ran out, and the diet of the crew consisted of ox-hides, sawdust, and rats—but at length the East Indian or Spice Islands were reached, and a large cargo of spices obtained.

Magellan was killed in a skirmish with the natives. One of his ships, however, sailed on across the Indian Ocean, round the Cape of Good Hope, and along the west coast of Africa to Spain—thus completing a voyage round the world for the first time. The expedition took nearly three years, and only one ship reached Spain. But one of the most wonderful voyages in the history of the world had been accom-

plished, and it had been undertaken with just five tiny ships, no maps to guide the sailors, and no known ports where water supplies could be replenished and fresh food obtained

In 1553, two Englishmen, Willoughby and Chancellor, set out to find another way to India by sailing round the north of Europe. Willoughby, with two of his ships, was separated from the rest, and long afterwards he was found frozen to death off the coast of Lapland. Chancellor managed to reach the White Sea—but owing to ice could get no farther. He landed, however, and travelled overland to Moscow, where he visited the Czar of Russia. Returning to London, a trading company called the Muscovy Company was founded to trade with Russia

In 1576, Martin Frobisher made a further attempt to find a northern passage to India by sailing round the north of America. But he failed, and, owing to the frozen state of the seas and the hardships of the voyage, this route was abandoned as a possible way to India.

### **The Renaissance or Rebirth of Learning**

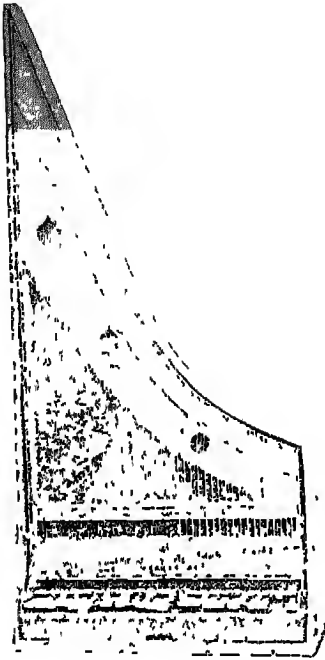
It was fear of the Turks which made merchants eager to discover new trade routes; and the same fear drove Christian scholars from the captured city of Constantinople in 1453. These Greek scholars fled to Italy, carrying with them their precious books and documents. They were welcomed, and the Greek language began to be studied again all over Europe with great enthusiasm. Books of Greek

scientists and philosophers, as well as the New Testament, which was written in Greek, could now be obtained for study; and the new art of printing, which had begun in Germany, and had been introduced into England by Caxton in 1476, provided many more books, which no longer depended on the slow and expensive copying of the monks

As most of the books of the time were written in Greek, it became important to learn the Greek language. Schools were set up all over Europe to teach it. In England, these schools were called Grammar Schools, because the most important subject of study was Greek and its grammar. Most of them were founded in the sixteenth century. Many libraries, too, were formed, and among them the famous Bodleian Library at Oxford.

In Thomas Linacre, a young scholar, the English found a very good Greek teacher. He travelled in Italy, learning all he could with great care, so that he could instruct his own countrymen on his return. The greatest and wisest men in England sought him as their Greek teacher; and he was chosen as tutor to the children of King Henry VII. He was also the cleverest physician in England, and founded the College of Physicians before he died. Among Linacre's scholars were three of the greatest men of this age, Erasmus, Dean Colet, and Sir Thomas More, all of whom were friends of Henry VIII.

Erasmus was a Dutch priest who, in his boyhood days, had been so keen to learn, that he saved up his pence to buy Greek books even though his clothes were in tatters. While in England, Erasmus resided



A musical instrument used in the sixteenth century. It was played by depressing keys as in a piano. Many of the strings are missing.

chiefly at Oxford, and he became the close friend of Colet and More, both of whom he visited at a later period. He taught Greek at Cambridge, where he was appointed Professor of Divinity. Erasmus wrote many books; but his greatest service to mankind was his edition of the New Testament in the original Greek text, with a Latin translation. In some of his works the follies and weaknesses of churchmen were exposed; and for this, it has often been said in regard to the Reformation, that "Erasmus laid the egg, and Luther hatched it". It is

true that Erasmus admitted the need for religious reform, and eagerly desired a thorough clear-out of the many wicked and idle churchmen, friars, and monks who disgraced the Church of his time; but he remained a Catholic, and never had any desire to interfere with the most important teachings of the Roman Church. It was the abuses he wished to wipe out, not the Church itself.

Colet, another famous scholar of this period, was Dean of Saint Paul's, and he founded Saint Paul's

School, where boys were taught Latin and Greek without the customary merciless flogging. The first school was built behind Old Saint Paul's, and the modern school is in West Kensington.

Sir Thomas More, who was Lord Chancellor of England during part of Henry VIII's reign, was another very learned and wise man, and besides that, he was good-humoured and cheerful. Being a great Greek scholar, he made friends with Erasmus, who wrote of him, "He rarely drank wine, preferring water, or beer as light as water. He liked beef and coarse bread, and cared nothing for luxuries—he wore simple dress, neither silk nor purple, nor gold chain, except when it may not be omitted". More led a very happy and busy life with his family, and he wrote many clever books—the most noteworthy of these being *Utopia*, which means Nowhere. It was a description of an ideal land, where every man was free to worship God in the way he believed right

So witty and popular was Sir Thomas More, that the king liked to keep him at Court; and More frequently complained that he was scarcely ever allowed to spend a quiet evening alone with his family. When Henry VIII declared himself Supreme Head of the Church, Sir Thomas refused to acknowledge him as such, and paid for his refusal with his life, for he was beheaded. Thus passed one of the noblest men of his time. More's daughter, Margaret, determined that her father's head should not be stuck up on London Bridge, and she succeeded in stealing it away after his execution. When she died, it was buried with her.

## HEADINGS AND HINTS FOR NOTES

## HENRY VII

- (a) Strong king—his three aims
- (b) His rule of the nobles—retainers illegal—Special Courts—gunpowder—cannon
- (c) Strengthened Tudor Dynasty—forced loans—heavy fines
- (d) Trade at home and abroad—navy and merchant ships—treaties—great intercourse—foreign workmen

## WOOLLEN INDUSTRY

Sheep farming—spinning and weaving—Gilds—Spinsters—clothiers—wages—export of cloth.

## FOREIGN POLICY

Treaty of Etaples—marriage alliances—union with Scotland—Poyning's law

## AGE OF DISCOVERY

Mariner's Compass—Bartholomew Diaz—Christopher Columbus—Vasco da Gama—John Cabot—Amerigo Vespucci—Ferdinand Magellan—Willoughby and Chancellor—Muscovy Company—Frobisher

## RENAISSANCE

Greek language—New Testament—Printing—Caxton—Grammar School—Thomas Linacre—Erasmus—Dean Colet—Sir Thomas More.

## EXERCISES

1. What were Henry VII's chief aims?
2. What methods did Henry employ to keep down the power of the nobles?
3. Write a few sentences to show how Henry helped trade at home and abroad.

- 4 What do you know of the following  
Enclosures—gilds—spinsters—Treaty of Etaples?
- 5 Why were rewards offered for the finding of new  
trade routes to India and China?
- 6 Give a short description of the voyage of Columbus.
7. State one fact about each of the following John  
Cabot—Vasco da Gama—Bartholomew Diaz—Magellan  
—Frobisher
8. Why did scholars at the time of the Renaissance study  
the Greek language?
- 9 Write what you know about each of the following.  
Linacre—Erasmus—Dean Colet—Sir Thomas More
- 10 Write a few lines on the woollen industry in early  
Tudor times.

### MAPS AND PLANS

1. On a blank map of the world put in the following  
places: Magellan Straits, Newfoundland, West Indies,  
Cape of Good Hope, China, Lisbon, Portugal, Spain,  
Constantinople
- 2 On a map of the world show the voyages of Vasco da  
Gama, Columbus, Cabot, Magellan
- 3 Arrange in time sequence on a time chart, the dis-  
coverers and their discoveries, during the period of the  
Age of Discovery

### EXTRACTS

#### LETTER FROM COLUMBUS TO THE KING AND QUEEN OF SPAIN, BEFORE HIS VOYAGE TO AMERICA

“ You must make me Admiral of your ships in the new western seas, and Viceroy, or under king, in the lands I shall gain for you. More than that, you must give me a tenth part of all the riches I find, for I shall need money when I am great, and I wish my little son Diego and his



children to have these rights when I am dead, so that the family of Columbus may be honoured for evermore ”

LETTER WRITTEN BY COLUMBUS TOWARDS THE END OF  
HIS LIFE

“ I receive nothing of the revenue due to me; I live by borrowing Little have I profited by twenty years of service with such toils and perils, since at present I do not own a roof in Spain If I desire to eat or sleep, I have no resort but an inn, and for the most times I have not wherewithal to pay my bill ”

EXERCISES ON EXTRACTS

1 When did Columbus discover America? Describe briefly his voyage

2 What does the second Extract teach you about the way Columbus was treated after his great discoveries?

BOOKS FOR REFERENCE AND  
ADDITIONAL READING

Lord Stanley *The First Voyage Round the World by Magellan*

W Roper: *The Life of Sir Thomas More*

Washington Irving *History of Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus, Companions of Columbus.*

Barnard Hamilton *His Queen*

W. B Nichols *A Wonder for Wise Men.*

Erasmus *Praise of Folly*

## SECOND PERIOD

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### HENRY VIII AND THE CHURCH

In Period I you have learned how Henry VII brought prosperity and peace to England. As a king, Henry VII was severe and greedy—his greatest fault was his love of money, to gain which he did many unjust things. However, he helped trade greatly and encouraged the new learning. When he died in 1509, few people were sorry, and everyone welcomed his handsome and accomplished son, Henry VIII, who was only eighteen when he ascended the English throne. The new king was clever and well educated, and loved the company of wise men, whom he delighted to invite to his Court, that he might enjoy their conversation and learn from them.

Henry's first adviser was Thomas Wolsey, the son of an Ipswich tradesman. He had greatly distinguished himself as a student at Oxford. He entered the service of Henry VII, and when Henry VIII became king, rose rapidly, so willing and able did he prove. Wolsey became in turn Counsellor, Cardinal, Lord Chancellor, and the Pope's representative in England. Riches were showered upon him, the king thinking no honour too great for his favourite. Wolsey was a great believer in education, and spent large sums of money in building

his famous Grammar School at Ipswich, and Christ Church or Cardinal College at Oxford—both worthy monuments of a very able minister Hampton Court Palace, which he gave to his king as a gift, remains to-day, a sign of his greatness and splendour.



Part of Christ Church College, Oxford

Henry VIII, anxious to bring honour to himself and England, was drawn into war with France. During the king's absence in France, James IV of Scotland invaded England in 1513, but was defeated and slain by the Earl of Surrey at Flodden Field, where the flower of Scottish nobility perished.

“ One by one they fell around him,  
As the archers laid them low,  
Grimly dying, still unconquered,  
With their faces to the foe ”

Queen Margaret, who was Henry VIII's sister, begged her brother for peace, which he readily granted. Peace was also made with France, and Wolsey arranged a meeting between Henry VIII and the French king. This took place on the "Field of the Cloth of Gold", so named because of the magnificence and splendour displayed there.

Wolsey now aimed at making England powerful abroad; and in the struggle between France and Spain for mastery in the Netherlands (the low-lying lands now called Holland) and Italy, by skilful diplomacy he held the balance of power between these two countries. He prevented either from becoming too powerful, and kept each anxious for the support of England

#### Wolsey's Fall

Swift as had been Wolsey's rise to power, his fall was equally sudden. Henry VIII married Katharine of Aragon, who had been the wife of his brother Arthur—the Pope having granted special permission in order to make the marriage legal. There was one daughter of the marriage, who afterwards became Queen Mary, but Henry VIII was bitterly disappointed that he had no son to follow him on the throne.

Further, it is said that he was tiring of the good and faithful Katharine, and had fallen in love with one of her ladies-in-waiting, Anne Boleyn, whom he wished to make his wife.

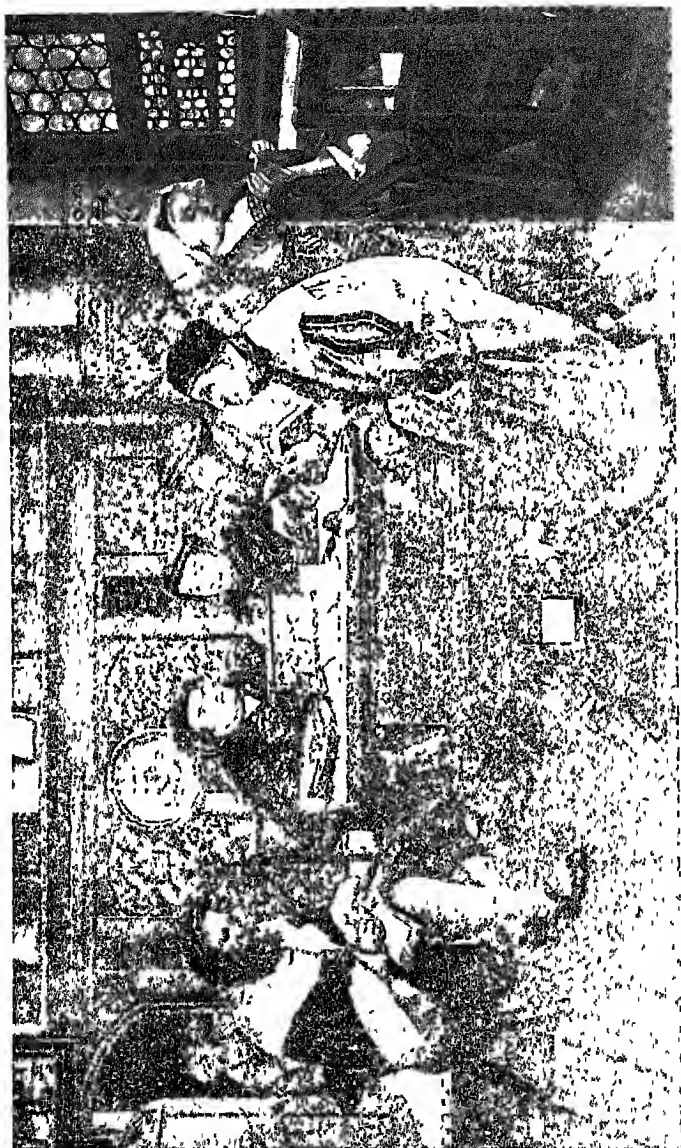
So he asked Wolsey to help him to persuade the Pope to say that his marriage to Katharine had

not been a true marriage. After much delay, the Pope appointed Wolsey and another cardinal whom he sent to England, to try the case. But no decision was given, and Henry grew impatient, and blamed Wolsey for his failure to free him from Katharine. In great anger he deprived him of all his offices and riches, and dismissed him to his see of York. Alas for Wolsey, he had made many enemies. The nobles hated his haughty, overbearing manner towards them; the people disliked him because he had taxed them heavily to provide money for the king; while the clergy resented his interference with their affairs and his attempts at reform. Thus he had scarcely a friend, and when Henry summoned him to London on a charge of treason, he fell ill on the journey and was taken to Leicester Abbey, where he died ten days later. His last words were, "If I had served God as diligently as I have served the king, He would not have given me over in my grey hairs".

### The Birth of the Reformation

The fall of Wolsey was the beginning of the Reformation in England, but to understand it, we must know something of the great movement which was spreading all over western Europe.

At the beginning of the sixteenth century, the religion of nearly all the western countries of Europe was that of the Church of Rome, of which the Pope was the acknowledged head. As early as the fourteenth century, John Wycliffe had objected to the wealth of the clergy and the great power of the



Martin Luther in his house at Wittenberg

Popes. The followers of Wycliffe, known as the Lollards, were cruelly persecuted, and many were burned as heretics; but their teachings were everywhere gaining ground—and in Lollardy we have the seed of the English Reformation

One result of the Renaissance, or revival of learning, was that people could now read the Scriptures for themselves, and they began to disagree with the teachings of the Roman Church, and to find serious fault with the lives of the clergy. As a result, people began to demand reforms in the teachings of the Church, and in the lives of the clergy.

In 1517, on returning from a visit to Rome, Martin Luther, a German friar, who was disgusted with the worldliness and evil lives of the Pope and his clergy, began to preach bitterly against the Church of Rome. "The nearer Rome, the worse Christian," he said in one of his sermons. For his writings against the Church, the Pope excommunicated Luther, that is, expelled him from the Church; and he appealed to the Emperor, Charles V, to outlaw this disobedient German priest. After hearing Luther, Charles declared against him, and ordered him to leave the country. Luther disguised himself, and lived in hiding for a year after this, during which time he translated the Bible into German. He had many strong supporters; and they drew up a protest when Charles V ordered Catholic services only to be held throughout the land. Because of this, Luther's followers later received the name of Protestants. Nothing that the Pope or the Emperor could do, was able to stamp out the teachings of

Luther. At length the Emperor had to allow the Lutherans to teach and preach in Germany.

Another leading European Reformer was a Frenchman, John Calvin, who settled in Geneva, and made that city a centre of Protestantism. Calvin said the Church needed neither priests nor bishops; and he urged that the Church people or "congregations" should manage their own affairs, guided by pastors or presbyters. Followers of Calvin called themselves Reformers, and his teachings and Church system were preached vigorously later on by John Knox, who founded the Presbyterian system of Church government in Scotland.

The causes of the Reformation in England were threefold

1. The growing desire of the English for complete national independence.

The English people strongly resented the payment of English money to the Pope; and they greatly disliked the continual interference of the papacy in English affairs, and the appointment of foreigners to Church offices in England.

2. Disgust at the idleness of churchmen, and their worldly lives

3. Doubt of the truth of the teachings of the Church of Rome.

#### Breach with Rome

Henry VIII wrote a book against the teachings of Martin Luther. As a reward for this, the Pope gave him the title "Fidei Defensor", which means Defender of the Faith. The letters Fid. Def., a



contraction of this, still appear on our own coins to-day. When, however, the Pope displeased Henry by refusing to free him from Katharine, he summoned, in 1529, the Reformation Parliament, which decided that:

1. Henry was to be Supreme Head of the Church. This was the Act of Supremacy.

2. The Pope was to have no authority in England.

3. All appeals to Rome and all payments of money to Rome were henceforward forbidden.

4. All Church disputes were to be settled in the Royal Courts.

Thus Henry had become neither a Roman Catholic nor a Protestant. He was not a Roman Catholic for he had cast off the power of the Pope, and he was not a Protestant for he still believed in Roman Catholic teachings.

Archbishop Cranmer had granted Henry's wish by declaring his marriage with Katharine illegal, and the king had married Anne Boleyn. When Elizabeth, Anne's daughter, was born, she was declared heir to the throne—the Princess Mary, her half-sister, being set aside.

The Act of Supremacy shocked many of the best men in England. Sir Thomas More and Bishop Fisher of Rochester were among the distinguished people who refused to take the new oaths, and as a result lost their heads.

#### Dissolution of the Monasteries

The good Sir Thomas More's place as Chancellor was taken by the unscrupulous and savage Thomas

Cromwell, who had formerly been in the service of Wolsey. He persuaded Henry VIII to inquire into the affairs of the monasteries, for he knew their wealth would help to fill his master's emptying purse. A small body of men, called a commission, was appointed, and its officers went to all the abbeys and monasteries in the land, and made reports to the king about the conduct of the monks and nuns. It was soon clear that things were not as they should be, for many of the monks were proved to be living selfish, idle lives. Therefore, at Henry's request, Parliament passed an Act in 1536, breaking up all the lesser monasteries and granting him their revenues. In the former book, you were told how the monasteries had done much good in England in their earlier days. They had been the centres of learning, had served as almshouses for the poor and needy, and their monks had acted as ministers and doctors for the people. In the north of England, people showed their anger at the breaking up of the monasteries by a rising known as the Pilgrimage of Grace (1536). But the rebellion was easily crushed, and as a lesson for future rebels, the abbots of four monasteries, together with the leaders of the rising, were hanged.

For the second time, commissioners were sent round to the larger monasteries and abbeys, and once more the monks were closely questioned. It now became obvious that Henry had determined to destroy these also, and no one was surprised when sales were held of all the plate, vestments, jewels, &c., which belonged to the monasteries. Some of the

great estates of the abbeys were given to the king's friends. Others were sold to local men of wealth, many of whom enclosed the land, and turned it into pastures for sheep farming. The only buildings that were preserved were those which could be turned into farms, and many beautiful abbeys and churches were allowed to fall into decay. The remains of many of these can still be seen, as at Kirkstall Abbey (near Leeds), Tewkesbury Abbey, Whitby Abbey, and Fountains Abbey (near Ripon)

The monasteries at Peterborough, Oxford, Gloucester, Westminster, Bristol, and Chester became Cathedrals after the dissolution, and thus escaped destruction

The annual income from the confiscation of monastic lands and goods that had been seized, amounted to a huge sum, the bulk of which was squandered in maintaining the endless round of festivities and the dazzling splendour of Henry VIII's Courts. A few bishoprics and schools were founded, a small sum was given to strengthen coast defences; and small pensions were given to a few of the oldest monks and abbots

Notwithstanding all these changes, Henry did not wish to alter the beliefs of the Church, and Acts were passed to prevent this. Cromwell, however, who was a Protestant at heart, persuaded the king to give preference in the Church to those who held the new beliefs; and, in this way, Protestant doctrines increased in the English Church. Cromwell's fall came about through persuading the king, on the death of his third queen, Jane Seymour, to marry

Anne of Cleves, the daughter of a Protestant prince in Germany. Henry had been shown a flattering picture of Anne, but, when he saw her, he was greatly disappointed with her appearance. Furthermore, she could not speak a word of English. Henry was very angry with Cromwell, who was accused of treason and beheaded.

One of the Englishmen who was influenced by the Reformers' views was William Tyndale. He found out that some of the clergy knew nothing about the Bible, and he decided to translate the Bible into English, in order, he said, that "Ere many years, a boy that driveth the plough shall know more of the Scriptures than many of the priests". The New Testament was translated by Tyndale when he was abroad, and smuggled into England in bales of Flemish cloth. Further translations were made by Miles Coverdale; and finally, a man named Rogers issued the "Great Bible", as it was called, with a preface by Archbishop Cranmer. In 1538 this was approved by the king, and copies were placed in nearly all the churches. They were fastened to a desk by chains, as books were still very precious. The people used to gather round the desk to which the Bible was chained, and listen to the beautiful stories which they heard for the first time in their own tongue. In this way many more people became Protestants. Chained Bibles may still be seen at Hereford Cathedral and Mancetter Church, near Atherstone.



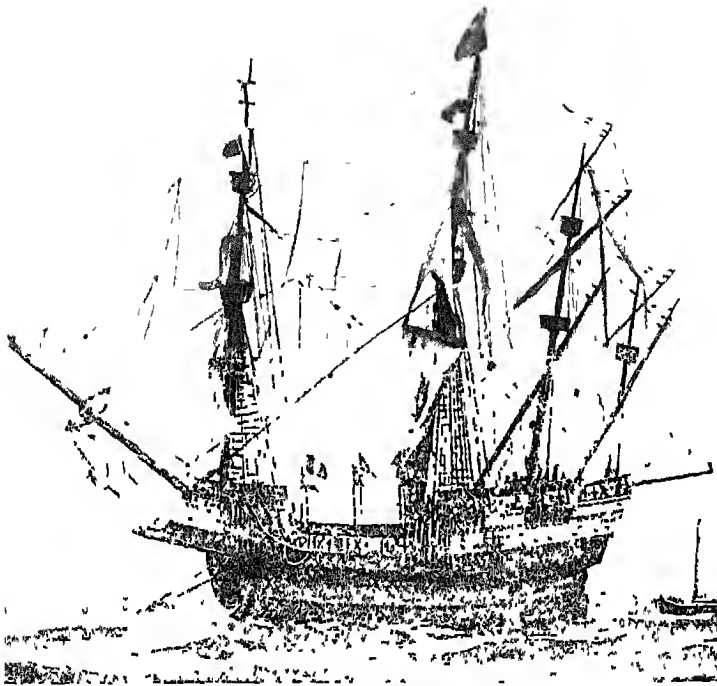
A Judge leaving  
Colchester after  
a trial in 1539

### Last Years of Henry VIII

As he grew older, Henry VIII grew more selfish, cruel, and ungrateful. He had become, openly, one of the most despotic sovereigns England had ever known. He would allow no opposition to his will. Many Protestants were burned as heretics because they refused to maintain the old doctrines of the Church; while Catholics suffered as traitors because they would not acknowledge Henry as head of the Church.

Parliament did just as the king wanted, and released him many times from payment of his debts. It granted him the power to settle his successor by will. First, he bequeathed the throne to his son Edward and his heirs, then, to his daughters Mary and Elizabeth. The Pope, on account of Henry's breach with Rome, had declared the English king deposed, and called on all the Catholic monarchs to help to drive him from his throne. France and Scotland were once more allies against England, and both French and Scots invaded England, but with no success. The Battle of Solway Moss, when a large Scottish army was defeated by a small English force, is said to have caused James V of Scotland to die of a broken heart. He left as his successor his infant daughter, the ill-fated Mary Queen of Scots, of whose sad life you will read in a later period.

At the Irish Parliament in 1540, Henry VIII was proclaimed King of Ireland. He was thus no longer the mere Overlord, but the Ruler of that



A Warship built in the reign of Henry VIII

country. Wales, also, had been incorporated with England in 1536, and was represented in the English Parliament for the first time. In his last French war, it is noteworthy that Henry VIII made a real effort to form a royal navy for fighting purposes. He had seventy-three ships, which were not converted merchant ships, but vessels built for the purposes of war and defence. Thus he is often spoken of as the founder of our great navy.

These Scottish and French wars, however, cost

Henry so much money, and he spent so much on his own gaiety, that he found his exchequer very low. His debts were numerous, but his creditors were never satisfied, as Parliament cancelled all payments due from Henry. In addition, the king took the disgraceful step of debasing the coinage—that is, he issued coins worth much less than their nominal value. This caused a rise in the price of all goods for sale, and the labourer who was receiving wages of 10*d.* a day found that his 10*d.* only purchased goods for which he had previously paid 6*d.* As his wages were not increased, he was much worse off than he had been before the value of money was reduced or debased. And the debasing of the coinage led to great distress and want among the labouring classes during the next fifty years, and had a very bad effect on trade. Henry died in 1547. He had failed miserably to fulfil the bright promise of his early years. Had he made good use of his splendid opportunities, he might have become one of our greatest rulers, instead of degenerating into an unscrupulous, self-willed, cruel, and violent king. But he was a great patriot and a great Englishman in spite of his vices.



## TIME CHART, 1485-1547

Year	Famous Events	Famous People
1485	Battle of Bosworth.	
"	Henry VII, King	Bartholomew Diaz.
	1492, Discovery of America	Columbus
	1497, Discovery of New-foundland	Cabot.
	1497, Voyage to India	Vasco da Gama.
	1502, Marriage of Princess Margaret to James IV of Scotland	
1505	1509, Death of Henry VII	
	" Henry VIII, King	
	1513, Battle of Spurs.	Wolsey.
	" Battle of Flodden.	Erasmus.
	1519, Voyage round the World.	Magellan
1525	1530, Death of Wolsey.	
		Tyndale.
		Coverdale.
		Thomas Cromwell
		Cranmer.
1547	Death of Henry VIII.	

## HEADINGS AND HINTS FOR NOTES

## HENRY VIII AND WOLSEY

- (a) *Henry* Handsome—clever—loved company
- (b) *Wolsey* Distinguished student—rapid rise—Pope's representative—famous Grammar School—Hampton Court Palace
- (c) *Battle of Flodden*.
- (d) *Field of the Cloth of Gold*.

## WOLSEY'S FALL

Katharine of Aragon—Anne Boleyn—marriage not annulled—Wolsey blamed—no friends—treason—death.

## BIRTH OF THE REFORMATION.

Church of Rome—John Wycliffe—Lollards—Renaissance—False teachings—Martin Luther—Emperor Charles V—Protestants—John Calvin—Reformers—John Knox—Three causes of Reformation

## BREACH WITH ROME

Fidei Defensor—Reformation Parliament—Act of Supremacy

## DISSOLUTION OF MONASTERIES

Thomas Cromwell—Wealth of Abbeys and Monasteries—lesser monasteries—annual income—how used

## CROMWELL'S FALL

Anne of Cleves—treason—beheaded.

## REFORMERS

- (a) William Tyndale—Bible—New Testament.
- (b) Miles Coverdale—"Great Bible".

## HENRY'S LAST YEARS

Selfish—cruel—ungateful—despot—Protestants—Catholics—Pope's attitude—Ireland—Wales—Royal Navy—his debts—coinage—death

## EXERCISES

1. Describe the character of Henry VIII.
- 2 To what wise use did Wolsey put some of his great wealth?
- 3 What brought about the fall of Wolsey?
- 4 Write one or more facts about each of the following.  
John Wycliffe—Lollards—Renaissance—Martin Luther—Protestants—Calvin—John Knox
- 5 Give the causes of the Reformation
- 6 Mention the four Acts of the Reformation Parliament.
- 7 Why were the monasteries broken up or dissolved? What became of their wealth?
- 8 Say what you know of William Tyndale and Miles Coverdale.
9. What was the Pilgrimage of Grace?
10. Who was Thomas Cromwell? What do you know about him?

## EXTRACT

## FALL OF ANNE BOLEYN

Anne Boleyn's arraignment took place in the great hall of the White Tower, on the 16th May, before the Duke of Norfolk, who was created Lord High Steward for the occasion, and twenty-six peers. The Duke had his seat under a canopy of state, and beneath him sat the Earl of Surrey as deputy earl-marshal.

Notwithstanding an eloquent and impassioned defence, Anne was found guilty, and, having been stripped aside her crown and the other

condemned to be burned or beheaded at the King's pleasure

On the following day she was summoned to the Archbishopal Palace at Lambeth, whither she was privately conveyed; and her marriage with the King was declared null and void, and to have always been so. Death by the axe was the doom awarded her by the King

*Windsor Castle*, by W. Harrison Ainsworth

(By Permission of Messrs G Routledge & Sons, Ltd)

### EXERCISES ON EXTRACT

1. Who was Anne Boleyn? Give any reasons you know that brought about her doom.

2 Who was Cranmer? On what other occasion had he declared a marriage of the King null and void, and why?

### BOOKS FOR REFERENCE AND ADDITIONAL READING

William Shakespeare *Henry VIII*

C Major: *When Knighthood was in Flower.*

W. H Ainsworth *Windsor Castle*

R. H. Benson *The King's Achievement.*

W H Ainsworth *The Lancashire Witches.*

G. Cavendish *Life of Wolsey*

## THIRD PERIOD

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### EDWARD VI. 1547-1553

According to Henry VIII's will, Edward VI, his only son, succeeded his father.

As the new king was only nine years old, a council of nobles was chosen to govern for him; but his uncle, the Duke of Somerset, soon took the power into his own hands, and proclaimed himself Lord Protector.

#### Protectorate of Somerset

The first difficulty of the Protector was with Scotland.

Henry VIII had desired to bring about a union between England and Scotland by a marriage between his son Edward and Mary, the infant daughter of James V. Somerset determined to bring about this marriage. He invaded Scotland, defeated the Scots at Pinkie, near Edinburgh, and laid waste, with fire and sword, all south-eastern Scotland. This enraged all those Scotsmen who had favoured the marriage, for they loved their country too well to see her suffer thus. The Earl of Huntly aptly described the feelings of Scotsmen when he said, "I mislike not the match but the manner of wooing."

The little Queen was sent to France by her mother,

who was a French princess. There she married the Dauphin, as the eldest son of the King of France was called.

### **Triumph of Reformers**

Somerset was a strong Protestant, and he next began to strengthen the position of the Reformers.

The churches had beautiful pictures, and frescoes of saints and Bible folk painted on their walls, while magnificent stained-glass windows portrayed stories from the Bible, and there was generally a handsome screen of specially selected and well-seasoned oak, most delicately carved by hand. The high altar was covered with costly silk, embroidered in gold and silver, and the massive candlesticks were often of solid gold. There were smaller altars, dedicated to saints, in other parts of most of the churches, usually these were memorials to some past benefactor of the church.

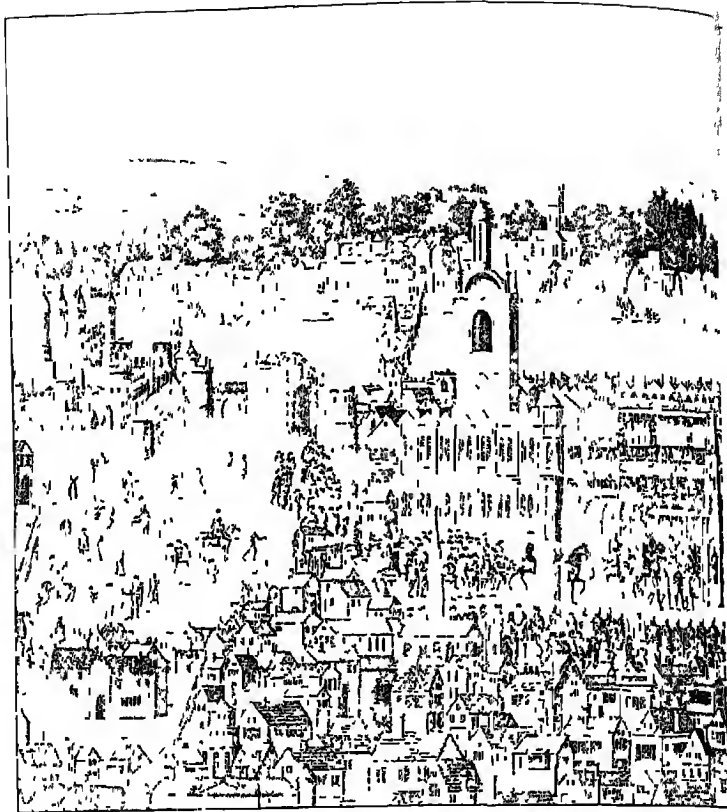
Such were the places of worship which had been used by English people for many years, and they had grown to love them as old friends. They were horrified when Somerset urged Edward to order all these beautiful church adornments to be destroyed. "All images", says the chronicler, "were pulled down through all England at this time, all the churches were white-limed, and the Commandments written on the walls. All the tombs, great stones, all the altars, and the stalls and walls of the choir and altars in the church that was once the Grey Friars, were pulled down and sold. Through all the king's dominion in every church all rood-

screens were pulled down, and every preacher spoke against all images."

Somerset also stopped the use of Latin in the church services, and an English Prayer Book, as well as the English Bible, was ordered to be used in all churches. The Protector tried to stamp out everything connected with Roman Catholicism.

### **Distress in the Country**

Discontent grew in all parts of the land. It was further increased by the distress caused among the lower classes in many villages when the common land, upon which the sheep and cattle of both lord and tenant had been accustomed to feed, was enclosed by the lord. On this common land, sheep, pigs, cattle, and goats had grazed undisturbed for hundreds of years. Frequently, the strips which the villeins had held under the three-field system were also seized by the lord, in order that he might convert the whole of his land into pastures for sheep rearing. Thousands of unfortunate labourers were thus thrown out of employment, and even the means of growing their own food, and rearing their own cattle, were taken from them. The dissolution of the monasteries had robbed the poor of their best friends, the monks, while the tenants of land which had formerly belonged to the monasteries found their new landlords greedy and unsympathetic. In the majority of cases, rents were greatly increased, and where labour had been given as part payment for land, the work was made much heavier, and its time extended.



The Coronation Procession of King Edward VI from the

Another blow was struck at the gilds, which had also become a definite part of English town life. In their way, they had served many a useful purpose, keeping a watchful eye on the quality of goods made by their members, caring for their sick, and helping those in distress. Many of these gilds had grown very wealthy since their foundation, and it





r of London to Westminster, 19th February, 1547

was their riches that caused Edward VI and his Government to cast a greedy eye on them. An Act was passed, confiscating their property. The only gilds which escaped were those in London, which were too powerful to be robbed.

With some of the money obtained from gild lands, and with part of the revenue which came to

the king from the despoiled monasteries, Edward VI founded many Grammar Schools, among the most notable of which were Bedford, Birmingham, Christ's Hospital, Marlborough, and Norwich.

With so much unrest everywhere, it is little wonder that rebellions broke out in various parts of England. Many appeals were made to Parliament to take steps to alleviate the sufferings of the poor, but the landowning classes did not back up the appeals, and nothing of any importance was done.

Somerset was said to be in sympathy with the troubles of the peasants, and to have dealt with their revolts in a half-hearted way. It is indeed true that he realized their hardships and wished to make lighter their burdens, but he lacked the strength of will and purpose to carry out the necessary reforms. He was sent to the Tower through the influence of his rival, the Earl of Warwick, who wanted the Protectorate for himself, and in 1552 he was executed.

#### Northumberland as Protector

Warwick, who now became Duke of Northumberland, took Somerset's place as Protector. He was a keen Protestant and he pushed on the Reformation with all his might. He brought in a crowd of foreign Protestants, gave them places in the English Church, and thrust all the leading Roman Catholics into prison, forbidding even the Princess Mary, Edward VI's half-sister, to attend mass in her private chapel. He bestowed all church and gild lands, upon which he could lay his hands, on his

Protestant friends, and disgusted all sober-minded men by his severe measures.

An edition of the Prayer Book in English had been brought out earlier in Edward's reign by Archbishop Cranmer; and, at Northumberland's request, the Archbishop wrote a second one, more strongly Protestant than the first. This Prayer Book, with very slight alterations, is the one which is still used in the Church of England; and, for its noble phraseology and beautiful English, we are greatly indebted to Cranmer.

Edward, whose health had never been robust, was now doomed, for consumption had developed and the doctors knew he could not recover. The Duke of Northumberland viewed the state of the king's health with great concern. He feared lest, on his death, the Princess Mary, who was the rightful heir and an ardent Catholic, should ascend the throne. So he persuaded the dying king to will the crown to his cousin, Lady Jane Grey, who was descended from a younger sister of Henry VIII. Edward VI did this, but, of course, it was an unlawful thing to do, and the English people would have none of it.

A sweet-natured and gentle girl, the helpless Lady Jane was forced into a marriage with Guildford Dudley, the Duke of Northumberland's son; the Protector thought that he would make his own position safe by this marriage. Swift tragedy overtook all concerned in this illegal move. When Edward VI died in 1553, Lady Jane Grey became Queen. After a brief reign of nine days, she was cast aside. Mary,

daughter of Henry VIII and his first wife, Katharine of Aragon, was proclaimed Queen by the English who favoured the regular succession.

Northumberland was executed, and, after a short imprisonment, Lady Jane Grey and her husband suffered the same fate.

## MARY. 1553-1558

### Catholic Reaction

Almost the first act of Queen Mary after her accession was to restore to positions of trust those Roman Catholics who had been imprisoned during the previous reign. Her next move was to make the religion of the land what it had been at the end of Henry VIII's reign. All the reforms of Edward VI were repealed. Cranmer's English Prayer Book was replaced by the old Latin services, and the most fervent Protestants were imprisoned. Among the most notable of these were Bishops Hooper, Ridley, and Latimer, and later, Archbishop Cranmer. Mary now wished to marry, but when she chose for her husband Philip of Spain, the Catholic champion of Europe, the English people were not pleased; the idea that their country might become dependent upon a foreign monarch was very objectionable to them. However, no active resistance was made to the match, which was the turning point in Mary's reign.

So far, the majority of Englishmen had been quite content with the changes in religion made by the new Queen. The English Church had returned to the



The Entry of Queen Mary and Princess Elizabeth into London in 1553

days of Henry VIII; it was Roman Catholic in teaching, but it was not under the rule of the Pope. But, backed by her husband, Mary now persuaded Parliament to bring the Church under the Pope again, and in 1554 the two Houses decided to do so. Cardinal Pole, the papal legate, came back to England in solemn state. The members of Parliament knelt before the Cardinal to obtain pardon for their lapse

into Protestantism. They refused, however, to restore the monastery lands which had been seized at the dissolution, but they put into force again the penalties against heresy.

### **Persecution of Protestants**

The burnings of the Protestant martyrs began in 1555—and nearly three hundred persons were brave enough to die at the stake for their beliefs. It is related in one of the accounts of the time, how a certain Suffolk clergyman, as the flames blazed up round the stake to which he was bound, had a lighted faggot thrown at his face by one of the onlookers "Oh, friend," he said quietly, "I have harm enough; what needed that?"

The two Bishops, Latimer and Ridley, were among those who died for their faith, near the spot in Oxford where Martyrs Memorial now stands. Latimer, an old man of eighty, and Ridley, who was much younger, were bound to the stake at the same time. A friend of Ridley hung a bag of gunpowder round his neck to hasten his end. "I will take it as sent of God," said Ridley. "Have you one for my brother?" As the leaping tongues of flame lit up the faggots on which Latimer stood, he said to Ridley, "Be of good cheer, Master Ridley. Play the man, and we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out."

The merciless persecution of the Protestants increased the growing hatred of a religion which could agree to such tortures, and of a Queen who

could allow such cruelties to be inflicted. Archbishop Cranmer was the next to suffer. Mary bore him a special grudge for the part he had played in bringing about her mother's unhappiness. He had always been very gentle and rather fearful, and he tried, by every means, to persuade Mary to let him live. He was led to understand that, if he renounced his belief in the new faith, his life would be spared, and he actually signed a paper saying that he was no longer a Protestant. Nevertheless, the sentence of death was ordered to be carried out.

At a public service in St. Mary's Church at Oxford, in 1556, Cranmer was ordered to recant. A large congregation assembled to hear the old man condemn Protestantism, but at the last moment his courage returned to him, and he boldly declared himself to be as staunch a Protestant as ever. He was hurried off to the stake, and when the fire began to burn around him, he thrust his arm into the flames, and held it there without flinching. "Thus unworthy right hand," he cried, "shall perish first," for it was the one that had signed the shameful submission.

Englishmen were now seized with an intense hatred of Rome and Spain, for they regarded Mary's husband as being largely responsible for the awful things which were going on in England.

#### The Queen of Tragedy

Mary, however, was so utterly devoted to the old faith, that she sincerely believed she was doing

God's will. She was not naturally cruel, but she had led a sad and lonely life, and was thoroughly embittered. Her childhood had been a tragedy. She had been banished from Court by her father, Henry VIII, when he cast off her mother, Katharine



How English burgher women dressed at the middle of the  
sixteenth century

of Aragon, and later, she had been made to act as lady-in-waiting to her half-sister, Elizabeth. Then, after a long separation from her mother, Mary was not allowed to visit her, even when she lay dying. During her half-brother's reign, she had lived a lonely life in complete retirement, and even as a queen, happiness had slipped from her grasp. Her



husband, who was eleven years younger than she, never loved her, and, when he found that the English disliked him, he had returned to Spain, leaving her alone. She longed for children, but none came, and she failed miserably in her attempt to stamp out Protestantism.

The closing years of Mary's life were passed in great suffering, for she developed an incurable disease. In her last effort to win her husband's love, Mary invaded the country of Fiance, his enemy Calais, which had been in the possession of the English for over two hundred years, was captured by the French, and Mary, deeply grieved at this national loss, said, "When I die you will find Calais written on my heart". She did not live many months after this, but died in 1558—a thoroughly disappointed woman, the most pathetic figure in English history, and probably the worst hated of sovereigns.

## HEADINGS AND HINTS FOR NOTES

### EDWARD VI.

Duke of Somerset—difficulty with Scotland—Pinkie—  
Little Queen

*Triumph of Reformers* Churches—beautiful images—their  
destruction—English Prayer Book

*Distress in Country* Common Lands—labourers—monas-  
teries—rents—gilds—London gilds—Grammar  
Schools—rebellions—Somerset's sympathy—his  
execution.

*Northumberland* Strong Protestant—punished Catholics—Prayer Book—Cranmer—Edward VI's health—Lady Jane Grey—Guildford Dudley—Mary—execution of Northumberland, Dudley, and Lady Jane Grey.

#### MARY

- (a) *Catholic Reaction* Catholics restored—Prayer Book—Protestants imprisoned—Philip of Spain—Papal supremacy restored—members of Parliament
- (b) *Persecution of Protestants* Burning of martyrs—Latimer—Ridley—Cranmer
- (c) *Queen of Tragedy*. Childhood—solitary life—unhappy Queen—disappointments—Calais—death

#### EXERCISES

- 1 What step was taken to fulfil the wish of Henry VIII with regard to the union of England and Scotland? Why did it fail?
- 2 How did the two Protectors, Somerset and Northumberland, further the cause of Protestantism in the reign of Edward VI?
- 3 What effect did the breaking up of the monasteries have on the poor people?
- 4 Give reasons why rebellions broke out in Edward VI's reign
- 5 How did Edward VI use the wealth he had acquired from the monasteries and the gilds?
- 6 Give the reasons why the Duke of Northumberland married his son to Lady Jane Grey
- 7 Relate some of the first acts of Mary when she ascended the throne
- 8 Say why you think Mary was an unhappy Queen
9. What do you know of the following Pinkie, Lady Jane Grey, Guildford Dudley, Philip of Spain, Calais?
- 10 Write a short description of the burnings of Ridley, Latimer, and Cranmer

## EXTRACT

## HARDSHIPS BROUGHT ABOUT BY ENCLOSURE OF LANDS

One covetous and insatiable cormorant and very plague of his native country, may compass about and enclose many thousand acres of ground together within one pale or hedge, the husbandmen be thrust out of their own, or els either by coveyne and fraude or by violent oppression they be put besydes it, or by wronges and injuries they be so wried, that they be compelled to sell all by one meanes therfore or by other, either by hooke or by crooke they muste needes depart awaye, poor, simple, wretched souls, men, women, husbands, wives, fatherless children, widows, woeful mothers, with their young babes, and their whole household.

*Utopia* (1516), Sir Thomas More.

## EXERCISES ON EXTRACT

1. To what does the above Extract refer?
2. What resulted from this casting adrift of so many "poor simple wretched souls"?

BOOKS FOR REFERENCE AND  
ADDITIONAL READING

- A. T. Sheppard. *Brave Earth*  
M. Twain *The Prince and the Pauper*.  
Lord Tennyson. *Mary Tudor*  
Sir Walter Scott *The Abbot*  
J. E. Muddock. *Basile the Jester*  
Sir Walter Scott *The Monastery*  
W. H. Ainsworth *The Tower of London*.



Queen Elizabeth

## FOURTH PERIOD

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### ENGLAND UNDER ELIZABETH. 1558-1603

Elizabeth was the third of the children of Henry VIII to ascend the English throne. Few rulers have ever had before them a more difficult and dangerous task. A writer who lived at this time thus describes the condition of England in 1558, when Mary died and Elizabeth became Queen:

“The Queen poor, the realm exhausted, the nobles poor and decayed; good captains and soldiers wanting, people out of order; justice not executed; the justices unmeet for their offices, all things dear, division among ourselves; war with France and Scotland, the French king bestriding the realm, having one foot in Calais and the other in Scotland, steadfast enmity, but no steadfast friendship abroad ”

Elizabeth, like her father, Henry VIII, was a shrewd judge of character, and her choice of her chief Counsellor, William Cecil, proved this. He served her with the greatest fidelity through his long and laborious life, till death claimed him forty years later. When he took the oath as secretary, Elizabeth addressed him thus:

“This judgment I have of you, that you will not be corrupted with any manner of gifts, and that you will be faithful to the State; and that,

without respect of any private will, you will give me that counsel that you think best, and if you shall know anything necessary to be declared unto me of secrecy, you shall shew it to myself only, and assure yourself that I will not fail to keep taciturnity therein."

The character of Elizabeth is fitly described in the following passage: "If ever any person had either the gift or the style to win the hearts of the people, it was this Queen, and if ever she did express the same, it was at that present in coupling mildness with majesty, and in stately stooping to the meanest thought."

The strongest weapon amid all the perils of her reign was Elizabeth's amazing popularity. She loved to go amongst her people, and was received everywhere with scenes of the wildest enthusiasm. She declared with truth that she valued nothing so well as the goodwill of her subjects. She loved flattery, and many of the love sonnets and extravagantly written verse, typical of Elizabethan literature, were inspired by, and dedicated to Queen Elizabeth herself.

### The Religious Settlement

The strife in the last two reigns had been caused by religious extremists, the pendulum swinging violently for Protestantism during Edward VI's reign, and more violently still for Roman Catholicism during Mary's reign. Elizabeth took the way of common sense in dealing with the religious problems with which she was confronted. She steered the

course midway between the extremists, and adopted the views preached in More's *Utopia*, that every man should be free to worship God in the way he thought to be right.

As the Pope had declared her mother's marriage with Henry VIII illegal, one of her first acts was to deny the authority of the Pope. She ordained that henceforward the reigning sovereign should be the Supreme Governor of the Church in England. She reissued the Second Prayer Book of Edward VI, and, by the Act of Uniformity, ordered its use throughout the country. The doctrines of the Church were clearly set out in the Thirty-nine Articles, and those who absented themselves from Church were to be fined.

Elizabeth had again made the English Church entirely independent, and had established its form, which has not changed from that day to this. The difficulties of settling the new Elizabethan Church were enormous. There were three distinct religious parties in the country: (1) the rabid Roman Catholics, who plotted incessantly throughout Elizabeth's reign to replace the heretic Queen, as they called her, by a Catholic monarch; (2) the moderate party, who agreed with all the new Queen had done in the religious settlement; (3) the extreme Protestants, who objected to bishops, and to a great deal in the Church service, and became known as Puritans, from the severe mode of living and dress which they adopted.

Matthew Parker, a man of great learning and true piety, was chosen as Archbishop of Canterbury, and

his wise influence was just what was needed to guide English churchmen.

### Scottish Affairs

While the Reformation had been passing over England, great changes had also been taking place in Scotland. The wicked actions, worldly lives, and greed of many of the Scottish clergy were causing serious discussion among all religious-minded people north of the border. Further, the influence and writings of Luther, Calvin, and other European Reformers were spreading in Scotland as they did in England. In 1528 a Scotsman, Patrick Hamilton, returned from a visit to Germany and preached eagerly the doctrines of the Reformers. He was seized and burned as a heretic by the Romanists. Another Scotsman, Wishart, was not frightened by Hamilton's death, and, wherever he went, he spread with even more vigour and enthusiasm the new doctrines he had learned abroad. Again the hand of Rome descended, and Wishart was put to death for his beliefs. He was avenged a short time after, when Cardinal Beaton, the man who had done most to bring about his end, was murdered. French aid came for the Catholics, and the murderers of Beaton were banished to the French galleys. John Knox, the fiercest and most sincere of the Scottish Reformers, "an earnest professor in Christ Jesus", went with them. Later, he appeared at the Court of Edward VI as Chaplain, but could not be persuaded to take an English bishopric.



A powerful Protestant party of Scottish nobles, who called themselves "the Lords of the Congregation", was a source of continual trouble to the Roman Catholic Regent, Mary of Guise, the mother of Mary Queen of Scots, who was in France with her husband, the Dauphin. John Knox returned to Scotland and put fresh heart into the Reformers. He gained a huge following



John Knox

by his inspiring sermons against Rome, and the monasteries and religious houses were destroyed by the angry mob. "Burn the nests, and the rooks will flee," cried the out-spoken Knox. The Queen Regent appealed to France for help against the Reformers. An expedition was accordingly sent, and the French landed in Scotland.

The Scottish Protestants now turned to Elizabeth, who was in doubt as to the right course of action. She was unwilling to offend France openly by aiding the Scots, for she had already offended Spain by her final break with Rome, and by her refusal to marry Philip of Spain. Also she did not like the thought of helping rebels against their rightful ruler. Finally, her ministers became afraid that the French were gaining too strong a hold in Scotland, and Elizabeth sent troops to the borders,

and a fleet of ships to Leith. The French reinforcements were dispersed by a gale in the Channel while on their way north, and, after a long blockade, the French garrison at Leith surrendered through famine. At this point the Queen Regent died. A treaty was signed at Edinburgh in 1560, which provided for the withdrawal of French troops from Scotland.

Shortly after, Francis II of France died, and his widow, the beautiful Mary Stewart, returned to Scotland in 1561. The day was dull, and the sun in the heavens enshrouded in mist when the young Queen of Scotland came home to her realm. "Was never seen a more dolorous face of the heaven—that forewarning God gave unto us," said Knox. Surrounded by followers of Knox, Mary found herself the butt of every insult the Reformers could hurl at her. Knox bitterly attacked her religion and her love of pleasure. The gaiety of her Court shocked the Presbyterians, as the new Scottish churchmen called themselves, and they declared her a wicked woman.

Elizabeth anxiously watched the numerous suitors of the lovely Scottish Queen. Mary was heir to the English throne and her choice of husband was therefore immensely important to England. Princes from Spain and France were mentioned in connexion with the marriage, but Mary chose her cousin Darnley for her second husband. The English Queen, though not approving of the match, breathed more freely, for there was no longer any danger of the Presbyterian party being overthrown, and Catholicism again established in Scotland.

David Rizzio, an Italian musician, was a great favourite of Queen Mary, and the nobles hated him. One evening he was stabbed to death while supping with his mistress. Darnley, her husband, was hand in glove with the murderers. Some time after, Darnley fell ill and was nursed by the Queen in a lonely house called Kirk o' Field, on the outskirts of Edinburgh. The house was blown up with gunpowder one night, Darnley was killed, and the Queen and the Earl of Bothwell were suspected of being involved in the plot. It was discovered that Bothwell had planned this foul deed. A casket was found containing letters which were said to show that Mary had also had a part in it, but it was known that they had been tampered with, and therefore her guilt was never proved.

To the disgust of all her subjects, Mary soon afterwards married "Black Bothwell", as the Scots nicknamed him. The nobles rose in arms, seized Mary, imprisoned her in Loch Leven Castle, and forced her to give up her throne in favour of her infant son, who became James VI, and who was brought up by the Reformers as a Protestant. With the help of friends, the Queen managed at length to escape from her prison, but after the defeat of her few followers at Langside, she fled to England and threw herself on the mercy of her cousin Elizabeth.

For nearly nineteen years Mary remained the royal "guest" of the English Queen. Practically the whole of this time she was held a prisoner. There were numerous Roman Catholic conspiracies to place her on the English throne, but they were

all vigorously stamped out. Her supporters were, however, continually disturbing the peace of England, and from time to time they threatened the life of Elizabeth. Spain was nearly always found to be behind the rebels; and, finally, Mary was brought to trial on a charge of taking part in Babington's plot, which the King of Spain had helped to hatch. It is not known with any certainty whether Mary's guilt was ever definitely proved. To the last she protested that she was innocent, and when she was condemned to death, she begged Elizabeth to spare her life. Elizabeth hesitated long before signing the death warrant, and, even after she had done so, was loath to allow the document to leave her hands. A Secretary obtained it at last, and the sentence of death was carried out so speedily at Fotheringhay Castle, where the ill-fated Queen had been imprisoned, that Elizabeth had no chance to change her mind.

#### England and Spain

Religious wars were constantly breaking out abroad, and from the fact that the Protestants always turned to Elizabeth for help, she gradually became the great champion of Protestantism. In the Netherlands (Holland and Belgium of to-day) the Reformers were oppressed cruelly by the Spaniards, for Philip of Spain believed, as did his English wife, Mary Tudor, that he was appointed by God to wipe out heretics from the face of the earth. The cruel Inquisition Court of Spain was the terror of all Protestants. It was a body of monks

which aimed at stamping out heresy, and the tortures and sufferings it inflicted upon heretics, or non-believers, made it dreaded more than death. It was never so active as during this period.

The Netherlanders, under William the Silent, held out gallantly until their brave leader was cruelly murdered by a Spanish assassin. Horrified at this, Elizabeth sent an English force to the help of the Protestants of the Low Countries, and, at the Battle of Zutphen, 1586, the chivalrous Sir Philip Sidney perished. His unselfishness and nobility of heart were such that, even when dying, he closed his parched lips as a flask of water was offered him; and, pointing to a grievously wounded soldier near by, whose eyes were fixed longingly on the water, Sidney said, "Take it--thy need is greater than mine."

In France, thousands of Huguenots, as the French Protestants were called, had been brutally murdered in the terrible massacre of St. Bartholomew's Eve, 1572, and Englishmen and their Queen were continually sending secret aid to help them against their Catholic oppressors. The King of Spain had long been angry because Elizabeth so insolently defied him and his Empire, and he was further enraged by the execution of Mary Queen of Scots. Mary, passing over her own son, had willed her claim to the English throne to Philip of Spain, and he now prepared actively for war with England.



Sir Francis Drake

### Hawkins and Drake

When Columbus discovered America in 1492, he was in the service of the King and Queen of Spain, and took possession of the lands of the New World in the name of Spain. Philip II forbade any but Spaniards to enter these lands and seas, and claimed for his nation alone the trade of Spanish

America. The Pope had "given" the Western World to Spain, and the Eastern World to Portugal. Tales of the treasure-laden ships of Spain crossing the Atlantic from the New World fired the imaginations of the many daring English seamen of Elizabeth's day, and they began to make voyages for the purpose of robbing the stores of gold, silver, and jewels which the Spanish trading ships carried. Many of these sea pirates raided Spanish colonies openly, landing for the sole purpose of plunder.

In 1562 John Hawkins, a Devon man, carried off negroes from Africa, and sold them to Spaniards in the West Indies, where they worked in the gold and silver mines. In this way, the horrible slave-trade was begun, but it is worthy of mention that the black men bought by Hawkins from the native chiefs were usually prisoners of war, who would probably otherwise have been tortured and eaten by their captors. Hawkins made a goodly fortune, for the Spaniards, eager to buy the negro slaves, paid well for them. With his first gains he bought hides, which he sent to find a market in Spain. The Spanish king, angry at the Englishman who had dared to sail his seas, seized the cargo, and Hawkins lost all he had won.

Anxious to revenge himself for this treachery, Hawkins prepared another expedition to the New World, arming his ships with guns. He carried a heavy cargo of negroes which he forced the Spaniards to buy at his price. Then he returned to England, and Elizabeth, to show her approval, invited him to dine with her. A third time Hawkins set out,

accompanied by his cousin, young Francis Drake, another hardy Devon man. Their ships were compelled to put into a Spanish port for repairs and provisions, after the buffeting they had received from a violent storm. Spanish warships, sent by Philip, arrived on the scene, but, as a heavy gale was blowing, Hawkins could with ease have prevented their entry into the harbour. On their written promise to leave him alone, Hawkins let them in. Then the Spaniards treacherously attacked the English ships, and, since they were dismantled, Hawkins lost four ships, and £100,000 worth of treasure. He and Drake barely escaped with their lives.

Drake vowed vengeance on Spain, and became henceforward the deadliest foe of Philip and his sailors. He spent the rest of his life in showing his hatred of the Spaniards, and they had to pay dearly for their treachery. His next expedition was to Nombre de Dios, and piracy was his aim. He knew that the Spanish mule trains, laden with silver and gold, were on their way from the shores of the Pacific, and native spies gave him valuable information. So he lay in wait, and surprised the Spaniards, robbing them of huge treasure.

It was on this voyage that Drake climbed a tree in the Isthmus of Panama, first set eyes on the great uncharted seas of the Pacific, and determined to make his next voyage on its waters. Setting sail in 1577, in his little ship the *Golden Hind*, with the Queen's blessing, Drake followed Magellan's route along the east coast of America, struggled through the ice-bound seas of the Magellan



Strait, and thence out into the mighty Pacific. He raided every Spanish ship that crossed his path on the way, and finally, after three years, reached Plymouth in his little storm-battered barque, with immense booty valued at £800,000. Thus was accomplished, in spite of dreadful odds, the most famous voyage an Englishman had ever made. Drake's reward was a knighthood.

In spite of strong protests from Philip of Spain, Elizabeth continued to encourage Drake in his piracy. On his next voyage, when he sailed for the West Indies, he had only two Royal ships, the rest being merchantmen and private venturers. He pillaged, plundered, and burned, everywhere he landed in these Spanish Islands, but he always treated the crews and his enemies with such courtesy and humanity, that even Spain marvelled at his chivalry. Drake gained very little treasure on this voyage, but he did immense damage to enemy ports and shipping. Philip was now thoroughly roused and hastened on his preparations for attacking England. There is no need to tell here the story of how Drake "singd the King of Spain's beard" in Cadiz harbour, but this raid destroyed thousands of tons of shipping and delayed the sailing of the Spanish fleet a full year.

#### The Spanish Armada

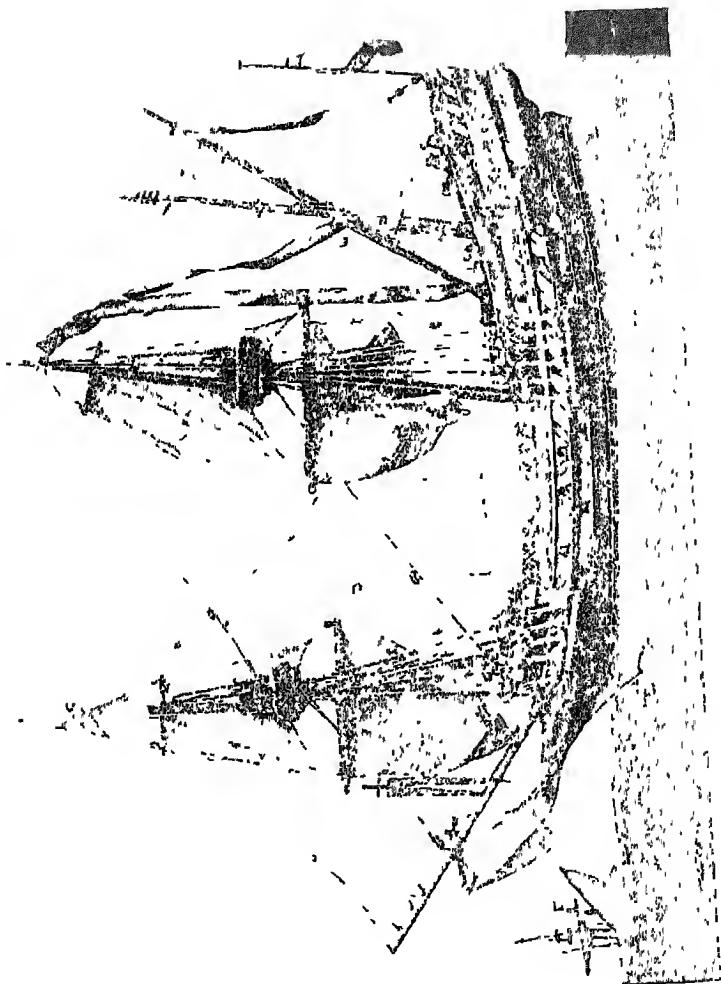
The Armada, as Philip's navy was called, set sail on 12th July, 1588. A week later it was sighted off the Lizard. Beacon fires blazed from headland to headland, carrying the message to the waiting

English that the Invincible Armada was indeed in sight. In London, the Militia or standing army of 70,000 was called out, and Elizabeth reviewed her men at Tilbury. Hatred of Spain blazed furiously in every loyal English heart. The following lines from a poem on the Armada by Lord Macaulay describe the lighting of the beacons on the headlands round the coast:

" From Eddystone to Berwick bounds, from Lynn to Milford Bay,  
That time of slumber was as bright and busy as the day;  
For swift to east and swift to west the ghastly war flame spread,  
High on St Michael's Mount it shone;  
It shone on Beachy Head  
Far on the deep the Spaniard saw, along each southern shire,  
Cape beyond Cape, in endless range, those twinkling points  
'of fire "

Drake and other famous sea captains of his day, among them Hawkins, Frobisher, and the Commander of the Fleet, Lord Howard of Effingham, were playing a game of bowls on Plymouth Hoe, when a breathless messenger arrived with news of the Armada's approach. Drake made his world-famous answer, "There is time to finish our game, and beat the Spaniards afterwards".

The Spanish galleons were huge in size and outnumbered the English fleet, which consisted of ships of the Royal Navy and as many merchant ships as could be mustered to swell its numbers. The Armada was to proceed up the Channel to pick up the Duke of Parma and a large army, who



A Warship of  
the time of Eliza-  
beth. The net-  
ting is to prevent  
boarders jumping  
aboard

waited in the Netherlands to be carried across the sea, for the invasion of English soil. The nimble little English ships followed the unwieldy Spanish vessels, which looked like castles on the sea, crippling several of them as they lumbered on towards Calais, which they reached after nine days. Parma was not ready, and while the Spaniards waited, eight old hulks were fired and, with a favourable breeze, set adrift amid the anchored Spanish fleet. Panic seized the enemy. They hastily cut their cables, and drifted into the open sea. The English attacked furiously. Of the enemy ships, some were taken, some sunk, and some ran aground. The English fleet was running short of ammunition and could not long have kept up the chase. But "the winds of heaven blew, and they were scattered"—and storm and tempest completed the work our navy had so well begun. What was left of the Great Armada was now flying northward, where many ships were wrecked on the coasts of Scotland and Ireland. Fifty-three reached Spain again, and Philip is said to have remarked to the survivors, "I sent you forth to fight with men and not with the elements".

Thus were laid the foundations of England's mastery of the sea, and the might of the great Spanish Empire was wrecked for ever.

Sir Francis Drake sailed to the West Indies once more, and died at sea in 1594.

"The waves became his winding sheet,  
The waters were his tomb,  
But for his fame the ocean sea  
Was not sufficient room."

## HEADINGS AND HINTS FOR NOTES

### ENGLAND UNDER ELIZABETH

Her character—shrewd—popular—flattery—literature.

### RELIGIOUS SETTLEMENT

Worship God — Pope — Second Prayer Book — Act of Uniformity — Thirty-nine Articles — Church independent — Roman Catholics — Moderate party — Puritans — Matthew Parker

### SCOTTISH AFFAIRS

Greed of clergy — Luther — Calvin — Patrick Hamilton — Wishart — Cardinal Beaton — French help — John Knox — Queen Regent — Scottish Protestants — Elizabeth's help — Regent's death — Treaty at Edinburgh — Mary Queen of Scots

### MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS

Religion — Pleasure — Darnley — Rizzio — Bothwell — Loch Leven Castle — Mary's escape — Langside — Royal "guest" — Babington's plot — Fotheringay Castle

### ENGLAND AND SPAIN

Protestantism — Philip of Spain — Inquisition Court — William the Silent — Zutphen — Sir Philip Sidney — St. Bartholomew's Eve — Philip's war preparations

### HAWKINS AND DRAKE

Columbus — New World — Spanish America — Treasure ships — sea pirates — Hawkins — negroes — slave trade — Spanish King's anger — Elizabeth's approval of Hawkins.

### DRAKE

Third expedition — Spanish fort — attack — escape — Drake's vengeance — Nombre de Dios — piracy — treasure — Pacific — voyage round the world — his reward — Elizabeth's encouragement — next voyage — Spanish islands — damage — "Singeing of King of Spain's Beard"

### SPANISH ARMADA

Lizard — Beacons — Tilbury — Macaulay — game of bowls — Plymouth — Spanish plan — Calais — Parma — fire ships — panic — attack — storms — Scotland and Ireland — masters of the sea — Drake's death

### EXERCISES

- 1 Give a brief account of Elizabeth's character
- 2 What do you understand by the Religious Settlement in Elizabeth's reign?
- 3 Write a short life of Mary Queen of Scots
- 4 Give one fact about each of the following Luther, Calvin, Patrick Hamilton, Cardinal Beaton, John Knox, Wishart, Babington plot
- 5 Say what you know of John Hawkins
- 6 Why is Drake universally recognized as the greatest Elizabethan seaman?
- 7 What do you know of Zutphen, Sir Philip Sidney, Plymouth, Calais, Duke of Parma, Nombre de Dios, Cadiz, Lord Howard of Effingham?
- 8 Write an account of the fight of the Spanish Armada
- 9 Say what event is connected with each of the following dates. 1558, 1560, 1572, 1577, 1586, 1588, 1594
- 10 Describe the condition of England when Elizabeth ascended the throne

### MAPS

- 1 Draw a map showing the route of the Spanish Armada
- 2 On a blank map of the world, mark the voyages of Drake

### EXTRACT

#### DRAKE'S SHIP, "THE GOLDEN HIND"

Drake is about thirty-five years old, of small size, with a reddish beard, and is one of the greatest sailors that exist, both from his skill and from his power of commanding

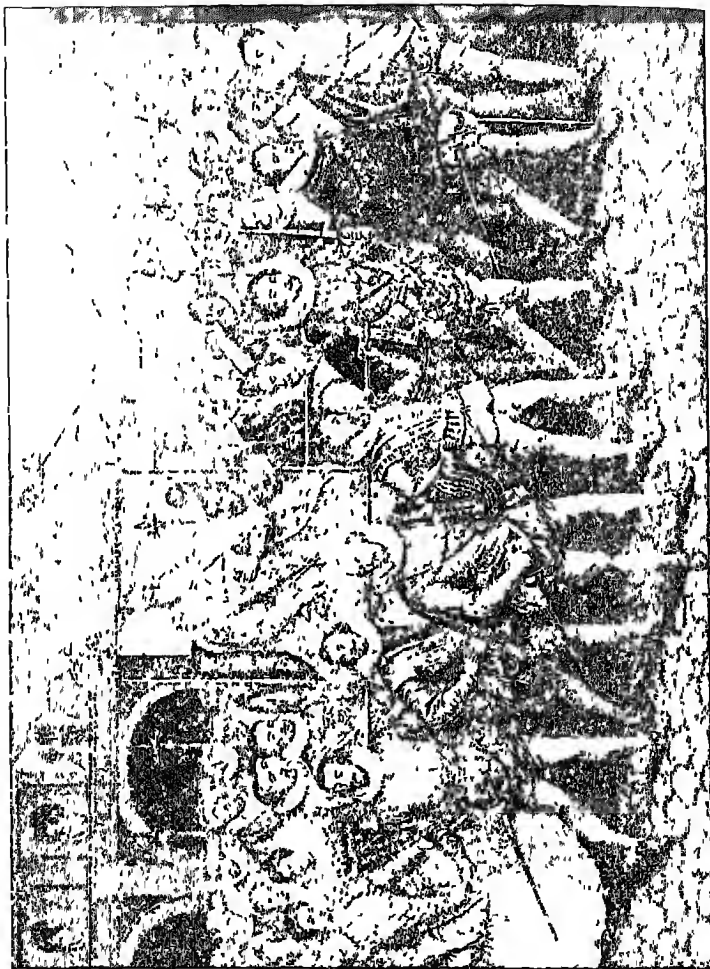
His ship is of near 400 tons; he sails it well, and has 100 men, all in the prime of life, and as well trained for war as if they were old soldiers of Italy. Each one is especially careful to keep his arms (weapons) clean. Drake treats them with affection, and they him with respect. His service is of silver, richly gilt and engraved with his arms, he has too, all possible luxuries, even to perfumes, many of which he told me were given him by the Queen. He dines and sups to the music of violins. His ship carries 30 large guns and a great quantity of all sorts of ammunition, as well as workmen who do the necessary repairs."—*Letter to the King of Spain from the Captain of one of the captured Spanish ships.*

### EXERCISES ON EXTRACT

1. Write a description of the *Golden Hind* as described in the extract.
2. How was Drake received by Queen Elizabeth on his return from his voyage round the world?

### BOOKS FOR REFERENCE AND ADDITIONAL READING

H. C. Bailey *The Sea Captain*  
 R. Sabatini *The Sea Hawk*  
 H. Strang *With Drake on the Spanish Main*.  
 C. M. Yonge *Unknown to History*.  
 G. A. Henty. *Under Drake's Flag*  
 Sir Walter Scott *Kenilworth*  
 Charles Kingsley. *Westward Ho!*  
 G. A. Henty *By England's Aid*  
 Sir Francis Drake. *The World Encompassed*.  
 Hakluyt *Voyages*.



Queen Elizabeth  
going to a wedding  
Her knights are  
carrying her in a  
litter



## FIFTH PERIOD

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### AFTER THE STORM

Elizabeth was now Queen of a united nation, whose pride in the crushing blow their seamen had delivered to the most powerful king in Europe knew no bounds

Englishmen felt that they had now won a foremost place among the nations of the world, and a keen spirit of patriotism was aroused in the hearts of all classes of the people:’

Elizabeth, who was a woman as well as a Queen, was immensely gratified—for to her people she was the great leader, whose wise counsels had guided them successfully through a very difficult period—and now her power with her subjects was enormous. Triumphant processions were arranged in her honour. She paid visits to the homes of her courtiers, and everywhere she was received with enthusiasm. Bowers were erected in the parks, masques were acted, and banquets were held. In Sir Walter Scott's *Kenilworth* we have a fine description of her visit to Kenilworth Castle, the country seat of her favourite, Dudley, Earl of Leicester.

#### Great Elizabethans

Two men, Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Sir Walter Raleigh, decided to found colonies where Englishmen could settle and trade with the homeland

In 1576 Gilbert obtained a charter "to inhabit and possess at his choice all remote and heathen lands, not in the actual possession of any Christian prince". In 1583 he sailed with five ships to plant a colony in or near Newfoundland, which had been discovered by John Cabot in 1497. His plan did not succeed, for the island was bleak and barren and the settlers found they could not make a living there. But Gilbert never returned to England, for his little ship encountered a great storm. As the waves tossed the frail barque, Gilbert called to his comrades, "We are as near to heaven by sea as by land". Soon after these words were spoken his boat sank. But, by his bravery, he had won for himself undying fame.

#### Sir Walter Raleigh

A courtier there was who spoiled a costly cloak, but gained a Queen's favour thereby. Walter Raleigh was his name. He was the half-brother of Humphrey Gilbert, and like him, he was quick-witted, and filled with a strong love of the sea. He was born in Devon, the cradle of so many of England's boldest seamen, and he loved to listen to the stirring tales of adventure told on the quayside by men who had returned from voyages abroad.

His earliest lessons in warfare were obtained in France, where he accompanied a relative who led a troop of volunteers to support the cause of the Huguenots.

After this, Raleigh went to Ireland, to assist the

Queen's cause against the combined Roman Catholic forces of Southern Ireland and the hired soldiers of Philip of Spain. There were rebellions and quarrels all over Ireland at this time, for the Irish Roman Catholics refused to acknowledge Elizabeth as their Queen, after her excommunication by the Pope. English law was no longer recognized, and to establish order, Elizabeth allowed a number of Englishmen to take possession of the estates of rebel Irish chiefs, and she encouraged them to live there to preserve peace. After taking part in the fighting for some time, Raleigh returned to England with dispatches from the Governor. And shortly afterwards he became one of the most brilliant of Elizabeth's courtiers.

He was soon a firm favourite of the Queen, who loved his goodly figure, fine handsome face, and courtly manners. He flattered her very much, and was rewarded by being made Captain of the Guard and a knight. She also gave him large estates in England and Ireland, which had been seized from disloyal subjects.

He next tried to do what Gilbert had died in attempting to do, that is, to found an English colony beyond



Irish Soldier at the time of Raleigh



An English Soldier of the time    He carries  
a pike

the seas. When he had made his preparations for the voyage, the Queen refused to allow him to accompany the expedition. Later, however, he obtained a charter for the discovery and occupation of new territory. So he sent ships to America, and the Colony of Virginia was founded in honour of the Virgin Queen. This settlement, however, was a failure, for the colonists had difficulty in finding food, and were frequently attacked by Red Indians. Finally they were brought back to England by Drake.

It was twenty years later, during the reign of James I, that Virginia was really colonized.

Through a love affair with one of the Queen's ladies-in-waiting, Raleigh fell into disfavour and was imprisoned. After a time he was forgiven, and was liberated. Then he sailed in search of "El Dorado", an imaginary country in South America, said to be rich in gold and precious stones. But he found no treasure—instead he discovered Guiana, and sailed four hundred miles up the Orinoco river.

Raleigh took a creditable part in several encounters

with the Spaniards, showing little regard for his own safety and fighting with the utmost bravery.

He introduced to Elizabeth's Court Edmund Spenser, the author of the great poem *The Faerie Queene*, and it was largely due to his influence that Spenser was granted a pension. Lord Burghley remarked grudgingly, when he learned of the grant, "All that for a song!"

When Elizabeth died, Raleigh was accused by James I of being concerned in a plot to sell England to the Spaniards. Although the charge had no foundation in fact, he was condemned to die, but popular feeling was strong enough to cause the sentence to be deferred. For thirteen years he was a captive in the Tower, where he wrote his *History of the World* to while away his time.

Repeatedly, Raleigh begged James I to release him, and finally he was set free to undertake another voyage in search of "El Dorado". However, it was a condition of his release, that he should refrain from making war on the Spaniards, whose friendship the English king wished to keep in order to bring



An English Soldier of the time    He is  
armed with a gun

about a marriage between his son, Charles, and the King of Spain's daughter. As the land he went to seek was held by Spain, it was impossible for Raleigh to keep his undertaking. Things turned out badly from the outset. His crew mutinied, stores ran low, he lost his son Walter in a land fight, and finally returned to England with no gold, no son, and a broken heart.

James was furious at Raleigh's failure to find gold, and angered that he had broken his word, and he ordered the sentence of death which had been passed on Raleigh thirteen years before to be carried out.

Calmly and fearlessly, Raleigh died. As he handled the headsman's axe, he remarked, "This is a sharp medicine, but it is a sure cure for all diseases"; and, when his executioner hesitated, he cried, "What dost thou fear? Strike, man, strike." So passed on another of England's great men.

Yet one more story of another great Elizabethan remains to be told—the "Fight of the one and the fifty-three".

After the defeat of the Armada, Englishmen continued to waylay Spanish treasure ships upon the high seas, and made repeated attacks on Spanish ports.

Sir Richard Grenville, in 1591, with his ship the *Revenge*, became surrounded by fifty-three Spanish ships near the Azores. He held out for fifteen hours, fighting with heroic bravery. Finally, he was taken on board a Spanish ship, where he died "a lion at bay". But "being dead he hath not outlived his

honour", wrote Raleigh, whose full account of this glorious sea fight appears in an extract on page 108.

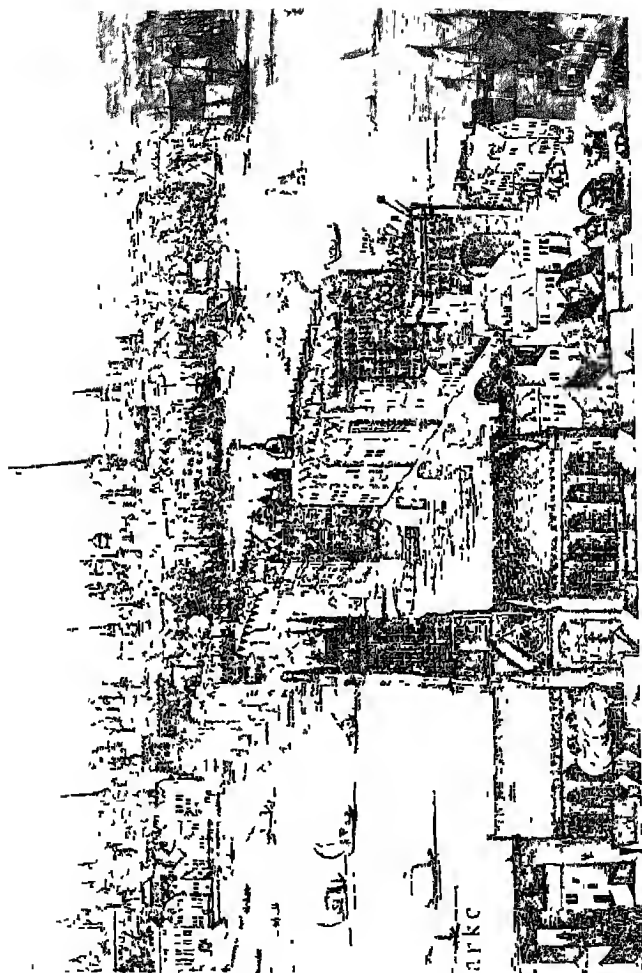
### Elizabethan Literature

Many as were the glories of this glorious reign, none had such lustre as its literature. In 1564 Shakespeare was born in the town of Stratford-on-Avon, right in the heart of England. Little is known of his childhood, but it is certain that he was educated at the local Grammar School.

His father appears to have been a prosperous tradesman of the town, and he attained the rank of Alderman and high bailiff; but by the time Shakespeare was fourteen years old, his affairs do not seem to have been flourishing, for his son's education came to an abrupt end.

When he was nineteen he married Anne Hathaway, a local maiden of no social standing, and eight years his senior. There were four children of the marriage. Nothing reliable in regard to him is known of the next seven years, but by the end of that time Shakespeare had gone to London, leaving his family behind at Stratford. He had made up his mind to become an actor, and to write plays, and he soon succeeded in attracting the attention of literary people of the day by his poem *Venus and Adonis*.

The young man seems to have prospered, for he became a shareholder in a theatrical company. When he was thirty-five, he had saved enough money to buy his father a "patent" granting him a "coat-of-arms", and he had acquired some property in his native town.



London Bridge  
and its neigh-  
bourhood at the  
time of Elizabeth



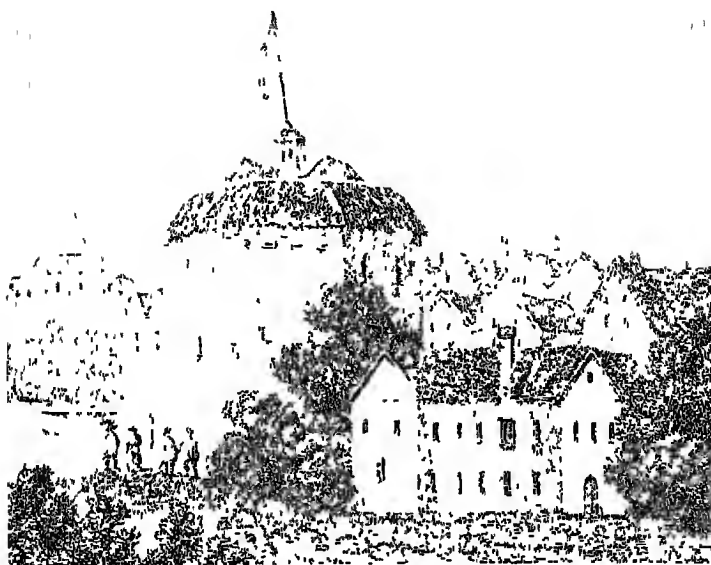
When he was about forty-five, Shakespearc returned to live at Stratford in a large house that he bought, called "New Place". He did not long enjoy his leisure, however, for he died when he was fifty-two, and was buried in the Parish Church, where his tomb may still be seen.

The first theatre was built in London when Shakespeare was a boy. Hitherto, only miracle and morality plays had been produced, usually by members of the various gilds. But strolling players now began to travel about the country, giving their shows in barns or inn-yards, and the village folk usually gave them a hearty reception, for there were few entertainments for their leisure hours in those days. These strolling actors were supplied with plenty of good material for their plays by the gifted writers of the day.

Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, the first great English poem since Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* appeared, was now published. Christopher Marlowe had written a number of excellent tragedies, when his life was cut short in a village brawl. Shakespeare, meanwhile, had completed a number of plays, and on several occasions they had been acted at the Globe Theatre before the Queen. She was well pleased, for we are told she made Shakespearc a present over and above the payments due to him.

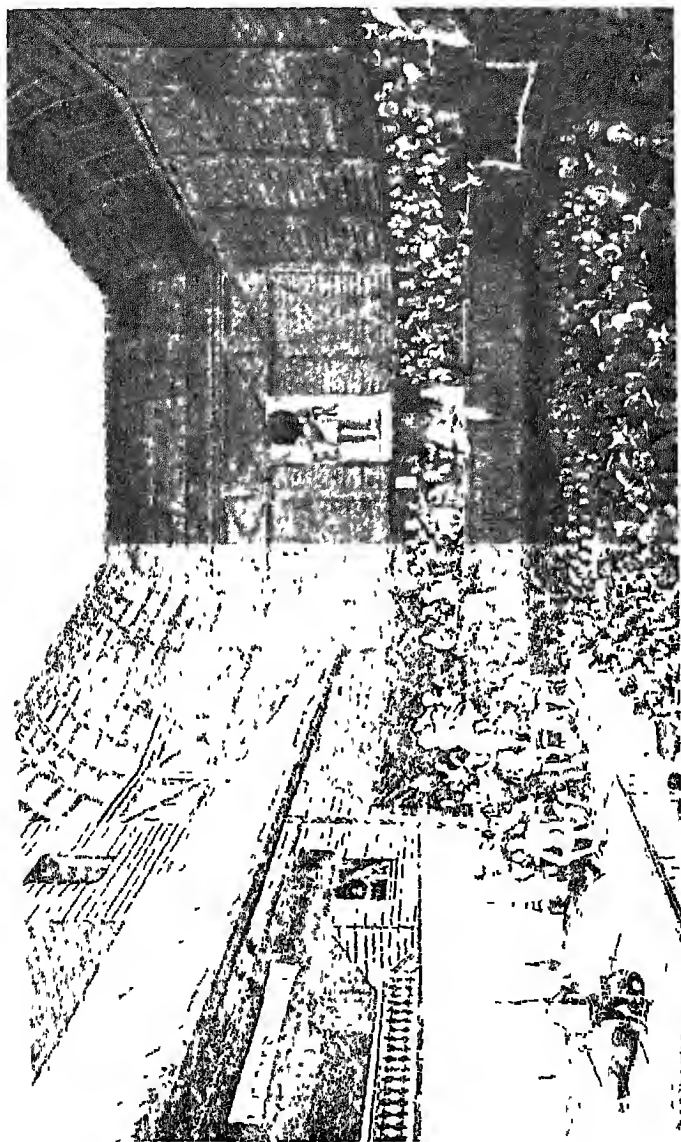
The Globe Theatre was built in 1592. It was made of wood, and was octagonal, or eight-sided, in shape.

The yard or cockpit inside was open to the sky. All round this were the galleries and boxes for the



The Globe Theatre in the year 1612

wealthier patrons, and these were roofed in. The poorer people stood in the open yard, which was usually the most crowded part of the building. Stools could be obtained by an extra payment, and the spectators were allowed to place them on each side of the stage. The stage ran down the centre of the yard, or "pit", as it was called. One end was covered in, and had doors leading to the actors' dressing or "tiring" rooms. The actors were men and boys only, as women did not perform on the stage in those days. No scenery was used, but notices were posted up to indicate a forest—cave—castle—&c. Sir Philip Sidney, on one occasion when he attended a play at the theatre, made fun



*A performance at the Globe Theatre*

of the notices used in the absence of scenery. "Now you shall see three ladies walk to gather flowers," he says, "and then we must believe the stage to be a garden. By and by, we hear news of a shipwreck in the same place, then we are to blame, if we accept it not for a rock; then the miserable beholders are bound to take it for a cave"

Ben Jonson, another prominent Elizabethan writer, was a friend and admirer of Shakespeare. And both are believed to have attended gatherings at the famous "Mermaid Tavern," where Walter Raleigh, too, was often seen, taking part in the brilliant discussions that were such a feature of these meetings.

The patriotism which was so typical of Englishmen of this period is vividly reflected in Shakespeare's comedies, tragedies, and historical plays, and is seen in these famous lines from *Richard II.*

"This royal throne of kings, this scepter'd isle,  
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,  
This other Eden, demi-paradise,  
This fortress built by nature for herself  
Against infection and the hand of war,  
This happy breed of men, this little world,  
This precious stone set in a silver sea,  
Which serves it in the office of a wall,  
Or as a moat defensive to a house,  
Against the envy of less happier lands,  
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England"

As you grow older, you must read and study Shakespeare's plays, for from them you can learn much about the life of the people of his time, and of the character of men and women of all time.

### Last Years of Elizabeth

Lord Burghley, the trusted and faithful servant of Elizabeth, died in 1598, and it was a long time before she could bear to hear his name mentioned without shedding tears. Many of the other great men of her reign had also passed away; among them, Leicester and Walsingham, and with them, some of Elizabeth's former supremacy.

In Ireland a serious rebellion broke out under the Earl of Tyrone. He made himself leader of a national league against England, and defeated the English forces at Blackwater. Rather unwillingly, the Queen sent the Earl of Essex to suppress the rising. He proved incapable of dealing with the problems in Ireland, partly because his forces had been greatly reduced by sickness, and partly because they were inadequately equipped—for Elizabeth would never allow sufficient money to maintain a really efficient army. In the end he made a feeble treaty with Tyrone, and returned home without subduing the rebels. Elizabeth angrily refused to agree to the treaty, and banished Essex from her Court. He became involved in a plot with the Scots, and the so-called Essex conspiracy led to the outbreak of a rebellion in London which was a miserable failure. He was seized, tried, and executed in 1601.

Later, the Irish were crushed by Lord Mountjoy, who won a decisive victory over Tyrone.

### The Poor Law of 1601

If you had taken a journey of any distance in Tudor times, you would probably have been stopped

from time to time by vagabonds and sturdy beggars, who abounded all over England. These rogues lived by their wits, and by begging and stealing. In the last Period you read about the distress caused by enclosures, when so much arable land was converted into pasture land for sheep grazing.

The breaking up of the monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII had been a further blow to the poor, for the monks never refused alms to a deserving beggar or failed to help the sick and infirm. It became necessary for Parliament to deal with the growing evil of these wandering beggars, as they were a source of trouble both in town and country. In 1601 the last Parliament of Elizabeth passed Acts providing for the relief of distress among the poor, and dealing generally with the problem of the vast army of beggars. This was the origin of the Poor Law System, which remained in operation until 1834.

Every parish was made responsible for the maintenance of its own poor. Overseers were appointed who met regularly, and a register was kept containing the names of those chargeable to the parish. Everyone with sufficient means was forced to contribute to a fund for the relief of the poor. Seizure of goods and imprisonment were punishments for refusal to pay. The money collected was used (1) to build almshouses to shelter the sick and infirm; (2) to buy a stock of hemp, flax, and wool to provide work for able-bodied beggars—the money received from the sale of the goods made was used to buy more material; (3) to build “houses of correction” for

those who refused to work—these were the fore-runners of modern workhouses; and (4) to provide work for the children of parents who were too poor to support them.

Begging was forbidden, without a special licence from the Queen. It must be remembered that begging could not always be regarded as a dishonourable practice, for many of the monks who had lost their homes, and also poor university scholars, had no option but to adopt begging as the only means to provide themselves with the necessities of life.

The Justices of the Peace were ordered to see that the overseers performed their duties properly, and to try beggars who refused to do the work allotted to them. The usual punishments for this offence were whipping, or branding with a hot iron, or detention in the village stocks.

Justices of the Peace were usually people of the higher or wealthier classes. The position during the seventeenth century became one of increasing responsibility. Among their many duties were:

1. To fix the wages of the day labourers.
2. To see that the Statute of Apprentices, passed in 1563, was observed. This Statute safeguarded the master by punishing the apprentice who failed to carry out his agreement, and, in turn, compelled employers to deal fairly with their apprentices. All apprentices had to serve seven years before they could "set up, occupy, use, or exercise any craft, mystery, or occupation". It also fixed the hours of work, and authorized the Justices to settle the rate of wages every year.

3. To see that the overseers of the poor performed their allotted tasks properly.

4. To fine people who did not attend the church services regularly.

5. To punish rogues and vagabonds.

6. To supply the names of all in their county who could afford to make a grant to the Crown.

7. To raise the shire levy, or militia, in time of war.

Thus it can be seen that the office of Justice of the Peace carried with it the discharge of many duties in those days.

Besides passing the Poor Law Acts, the Parliament of 1601 got with difficulty from Elizabeth a promise to grant no more monopolies. Monopolies gave certain people the sole right to sell goods in particular districts. They were usually given by the Sovereign to Court favourites, or as a reward for some worthy service, or in return for the gift of a welcome sum of money to the Crown. This system always led to a great rise in the price of the articles for which the monopoly was granted, and was therefore very unpopular. Later on, we shall read of the great abuse of monopolies in Stewart days.

In 1603, after a reign of forty-five years, the last of the Tudor sovereigns died. She had welded the English people into a strong, patriotic, and united nation, and she left England a much better place to live in. She loved to describe herself as "mere English", and that is just what she was, English to the core.



## TIME CHART, 1547-1603

Year	Famous Events	Famous People
1547	Edward VI, King 1547, Battle of Pinkie 1549, First Prayer Book	Somerset (Protector) Northumberland.
1550	1552, Second Prayer Book 1553, Death of Edward VI " Lady Jane Grey (Queen) " Mary (Queen) 1558, Loss of Calais " Mary's Death. " Elizabeth (Queen)	Hooper, Ridley, Latimer, Cranmer.
1560	1572, Drake's First Voyage 1577, Drake sails round the World	Mary Queen of Scots Hawkins Drake
1580	1587, Mary Queen of Scots Executed 1588, Spanish Armada	Spenser Shakespeare. Raleigh. Ben Jonson
1600	1601, Poor Law. 1603, Death of Elizabeth	

## HEADINGS AND HINTS FOR NOTES

## AFTER THE STORM

Patriotism — Queen gratified — leader — processions —  
banquets, etc — Kenilworth.

## GREAT ELIZABETHANS.

- (a) *Sir Humphrey Gilbert* Newfoundland voyage—failure  
—bravery—death.
- (b) *Sir Walter Raleigh* Devon — quayside — stories—  
France — Ireland — Virginia—Queen's favourite —  
knighthood — Armada — voyage to America — love  
affair—El Dorado—Spaniards—Edmund Spenser  
—Raleigh imprisoned—his last voyage—return—  
death
- (c) *Sir Richard Grenville* The story of the *Revenge*

## ELIZABETHAN LITERATURE

*Shakespeare* Stratford — Anne Hathaway — London —  
Actor — "Venus and Adonis" — Prosperity —  
death

First Theatre — *Faerie Queene* — Marlowe — Globe  
Theatre—Shakespeare's Plays—Ben Jonson—Mer-  
maid Tavern—English Plays

## ELIZABETH'S LAST YEARS

Lord Burghley—Leicester—Ireland's difficulties—Earl  
of Essex—Lord Mountjoy's victory.

## POOR LAW

Vagabonds and beggars — monasteries — Parliament —  
definite laws — parish — overseers — imprisonment  
—money collected — how used — special licence —  
Justice of the Peace—his duties.

## MONOPOLIES

## ELIZABETH'S DEATH

"Greatest Tudor."

## EXERCISES

1. Describe how the defeat of the Armada was celebrated in England
- 2 Write a short life of Sir Walter Raleigh.
- 3 Say what you know of Sir Humphrey Gilbert
- 4 Who was the greatest Elizabethan poet? What do you know of him?
5. Write one fact about each of the following Anne Hathaway, Spenser, Globe Theatre, Ben Jonson, Mermaid Tavern, Virginia, El Dorado
- 6 How did Elizabeth deal with the Irish situation?
7. What is meant by the Statute of Apprentices?
- 8 "The country abounded with rogues and vagabonds" Comment on this. How were the beggars punished who refused to work?
- 9 What were the duties of the Justices of the Peace at this time?
- 10 What were Monopolies? Why were they unpopular?

## MAPS AND PLANS

- 1 Make a model of the Globe Theatre
- 2 On a map of the world show the route of Raleigh's voyage to Guiana

## REVISION EXERCISES

- 1 Name one event connected with each of the following dates 1492, 1513, 1549, 1558, 1588, 1601.
- 2 Choose three of the following and write a few lines on each Christopher Columbus, Wolsey, Erasmus, Magellan, Cranmer, Sir Thomas More, William Shakespeare
- 3 What do you know of the following Court of Star Chamber, Chained Bible, Pilgrimage of Grace, Fidei Defensor, Sea Dogs?

4 With what events are the following connected

- (a) "To hym that found the New Isle £10 "
- (b) "One by one they fell around him,  
As the archers laid them low,  
Grimly dying, still unconquered  
With their faces to the foe."
- (c) "If I had served God as diligently as I have  
served the King, He would not have given me  
over in my grey hairs "
- (d) "I mislike not the match but the manner of  
wooing "
- (e) "Take it—thy need is greater than mine "
- (f) "This is a sharp medicine, but it is a sure cure  
for all diseases "

## EXTRACT

### LAST FIGHT OF THE "REVENGE "

"All the powder of the *Revenge* to the last barrel, was now spent, all her pikes were broken, forty of her best men slain, and the most part of the rest hurt

"Sir Richard now found himself in this distress and unable any longer to make resistance. He had endured in this fifteen hours' fight the assault of fifteen several Armadas, all by turns aboard him, and eight hundred shot of great artillery, besides many assaults and entries. He saw that he himself and the ship must needs be possessed by the enemy, who were now cast in a ring about him, the *Revenge* not able to move one way or other but as she was moved with the waves and billows of the sea. So he commanded the master gunner whom he knew to be a most resolute man, to split and sink the ship, so that nothing might remain of glory or victory to the Spaniards. The master gunner readily condescended and divers others, but the captain and the master were of another opinion

“Then the Spanish General sent many boats aboard the *Revenge*. Sir Richard, thus overmatched, answered that he—the General—might do with his body what he list, for he esteemed it not—and as he was carried out of his ship, he swooned. The General used Sir Richard with all humanity, highly commending his valour and worthiness.”

*Sir Walter Raleigh*

### EXERCISES ON EXTRACT

1 Describe simply the story of Sir Richard Grenville's fight with the Spaniards

2 When and where did this fight take place, and why were Englishmen and Spaniards such sworn enemies?

### BOOKS FOR REFERENCE AND ADDITIONAL READING

R Leighton *The Golden Galleon*

The Rev A D Crake *The Last Abbot of Glastonbury*

J A Brendon *The Days of Elizabeth*

G A Henty *By Pike and Dyke.*

## SIXTH PERIOD

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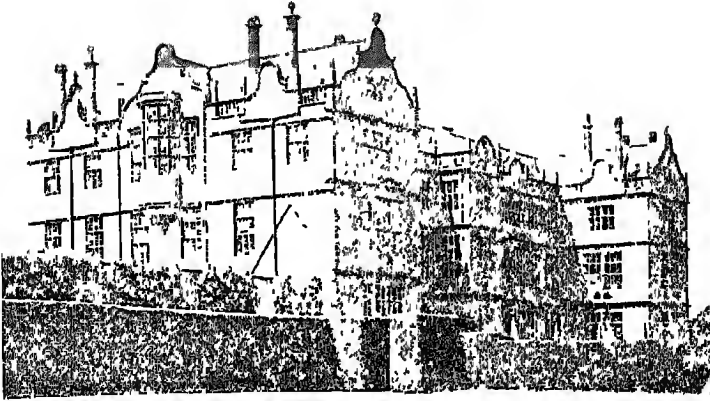
### LIFE IN TUDOR TIMES

#### The Manor House

At the end of the sixteenth century the great castles, surrounded by their strong stone walls, fortified gateways, and deep moats, were things of the past, for the peace which the Tudors gave England made them unnecessary, and the introduction of gunpowder made them useless. A large number of new houses had been built by flourishing merchants, sons of wealthy nobles, and retired courtiers. Many of these were erected on the sites of old monasteries. Let us visit one of these newly-built Tudor houses.

By an arched gateway we enter the great park where deer are grazing beneath the trees, which cast their shadows on the lawns below. As we get our first glimpse of the house, we see that it is built of small red bricks, and has tall, carved, quaintly-shaped chimneys, from which curls the blue smoke from the wood fires within. Everything is ornamented—gables and domes, gilded turrets, and castellated roofs.

As we take the broad straight walk leading to the main entrance, we admire the beautiful flowerbeds, the smooth grass lawns edged with yew hedges which have been clipped into cones and pyramids, and figures of birds and beasts; and we notice the



A Mansion of the time of Queen Elizabeth

very thick holly hedge on the north side, planted to protect the flowers from the wind. Many stone seats are scattered about the garden, and in the centre of the lawn nearest the house is a sundial which tells us the time when the sun is shining. As we mount the wide stone steps of the terrace which brings us to the house, we see on one side a glistening lake, and on the other a fine bowling green.

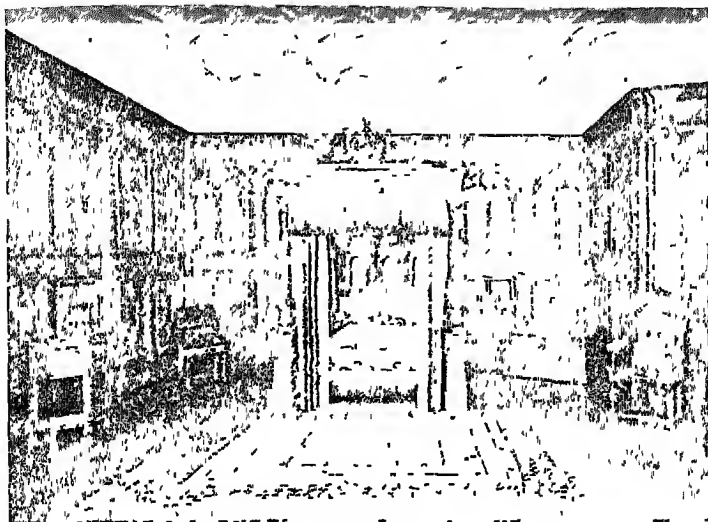
How striking are the great oriel windows, which have taken the place of the loopholes of the Middle Ages. They are made up of hundreds of tiny diamond-shaped panes of glass, and in the centre of each window appears the coat-of-arms of the

owner, in coloured glass Lord Bacon, who lived in Elizabeth's reign, complains in one of his famous essays. "You shall have-sometimes fair houses so full of glass, that one cannot tell where to be out of sun or cold".

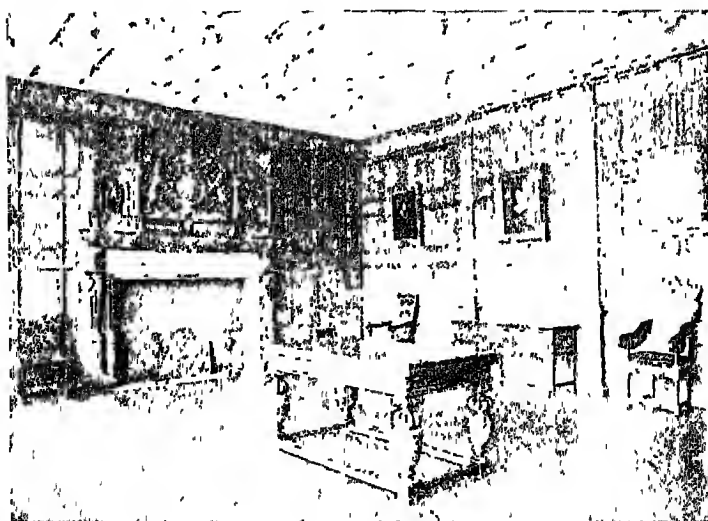
The building is planned in the shape of a letter "E", said to be in compliment to Elizabeth. Entering the hall, we see the wide, carved stone chimney piece, from which the smoke is now carried away through a tall chimney instead of through a hole in the roof, as in former days. At one end of the hall is a carved oaken screen, a fine specimen of Elizabethan woodwork; and the walls are hung with gaily-coloured tapestries. But it is no longer the most important part of the house where all the meals, feasts, and great gatherings are held, for there is now a dining-room, panelled in oak, with an embossed plaster ceiling, and a wonderful wood-carved mantelpiece which is so wide that the fireplace below it has a seat in each of its corners. It is here that the family dine. The usual hours for meals are eleven in the morning for dinner, and six in the evening for supper. Dinner in the homes of the wealthy is a very elaborate affair, often lasting until two in the afternoon. The heavy oak dining table is decked with silver dishes and pewter tankards, though fingers are still used instead of forks.

The old stone circular staircases have given place to beautiful wide oaken ones, again very wonderfully carved. Reaching the first floor, we find numerous bedrooms with lovely hangings adorning their walls, and great four-poster beds on which the wood-





A Bedroom



A Dining-room

How the rich furnished their homes in the reign of Elizabeth

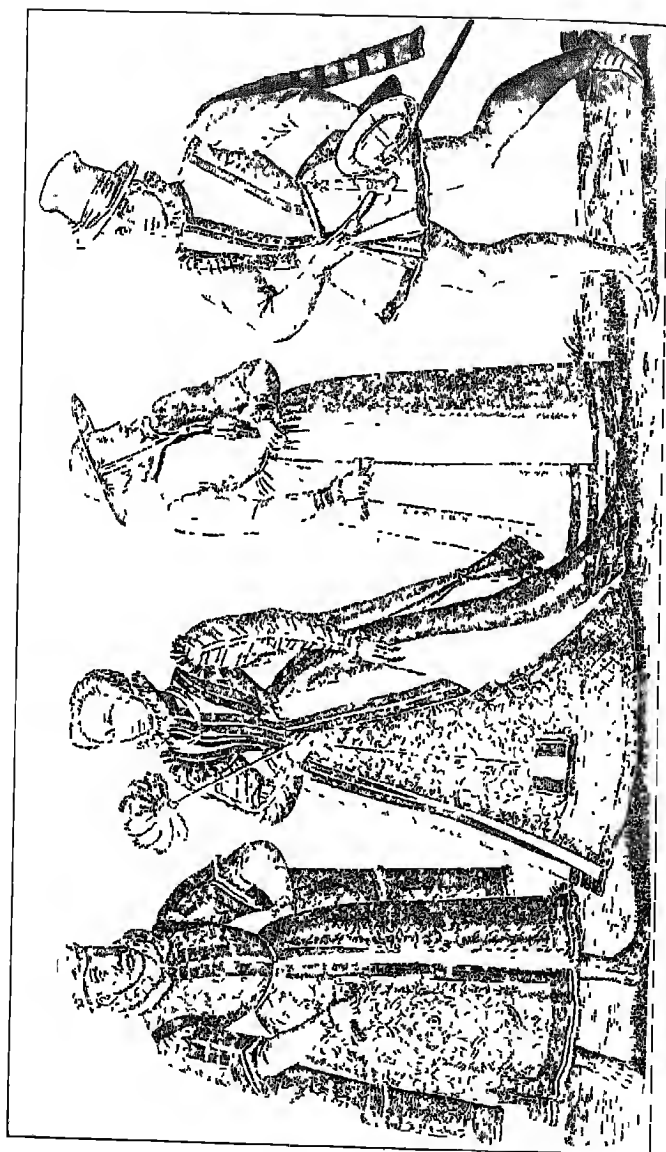
carver has scarcely left a square inch untouched. Heavy curtains of silk, velvet, and damask hang from the beds, and can be drawn to keep out draughts. Over the feather beds are blankets, sheets of fine linen, and hand-embroidered coverlets decorated with gold and silver; and we notice that feather pillows are taking the place of bags of chaff and lumps of wood in the homes of the wealthy. There are seats padded with cushions, built round almost all the great windows, where one may sit and admire the carnations, sweet williams, stocks, and marigolds in the beds near the house, and farther afield, the herb garden which appears in every Elizabethan garden and contains a great variety of herbs for medicinal and cooking purposes.

We are surprised to find that the servants now have bedrooms, and no longer sleep on rushes in the great hall. We notice, too, that lovely Persian carpets and brightly-coloured straw mats have taken the place of rushes on the floors. There is a long panelled gallery where the portraits of the owner's family and ancestors hang in gilded frames—the most valuable of these having curtains drawn in front to keep them free of dust. There is also a library, where precious books—the collection of many years—are seen in their beautiful calf bindings. We pass through many withdrawing rooms—one leading into another, as there are seldom passages or corridors in these Elizabethan manor houses—and we notice the silken-covered chairs, and the mirrors framed in silver or gold.

The servants' wing contains the stillroom, as the

housekeeper's storeroom is called, the preserving-room for jam-making, the larders, kitchen, buttery, or storeroom for liquor, and pantries, as well as the sleeping quarters. The whole house is a testimony to the care taken by the owner and his wife to make it both beautiful and homely. Everywhere the sweet smell of the herbs, which are strewn about the rooms, fills the air; while little nosegays of flowers appear in jars all over the house. A Dutchman who visited England in 1560 said of the English people, "Their chambers and parlours strawed over with sweet herbs refreshed me; their nosegays fully intermingled with sundry sorts of fragraunte floures in their bedchambers and privy rooms, with comfortable smell cheered me up, and entirely delighted all my senses".

The food of the wealthier classes is becoming much more varied, for many kinds of fruit are grown in their orchards, including the "apricocke" recently imported; and peaches, nectarines, and strawberries are a feature of the south side of the fruit garden. In the kitchen garden grow carrots, parsnips, radishes, cucumbers, melons, and cress. Some of these have been introduced by Flemish and Dutch refugees. Last of all comes the potato, brought from the New World by John Hawkins, and fast becoming a favourite vegetable. Fish is brought from Iceland and Newfoundland, as well as from home waters, and wines are imported from France and Portugal. Water, beer, cider, and home-made wines are the staple drinks; and in the winter most of the meat is salted, for the English



Rich Merchant

Lady of the Nobility

A Country Lady

A Man of the Middle Classes.

Some Examples of the Costumes worn in Elizabeth's reign

are only just learning how to grow root crops and to stack hay, to feed their cattle through the cold months.

### Dress

The dress of the upper classes in Tudor times was very ornamental and costly, but stiff and ungainly.

“ Her long slit sleeves, stuff buske, puff verdingall  
Is all that makes her thus angelicall,”

says a sixteenth-century writer, describing his ideal of female attire.

Queen Elizabeth was extremely fond of dress, and, at her death, is said to have possessed a wardrobe of three thousand dresses. The Court robes of Tudor ladies were of the richest and brightest materials obtainable. The bodices were tight and pointed to give a long-waisted effect in front, and huge farthingales, which were wide gathered skirts spread over great hoops, were worn and were often studded with pearls and costly jewels or were very beautifully hand-embroidered. A lace ruff, which was of Spanish origin, was worn round the neck, and this became so large that wires were necessary to keep it in place.

When starch was introduced, it was called by the Puritans “ devil’s liquor ”, but so much was it in demand to stiffen the ruffs, that an establishment was set up in London where pupils were taught the art of starching, at a charge of five guineas, a very large sum at that time. Silk stockings were now worn instead of the old cloth ones, and also perfumed

gloves As Queen Elizabeth had reddish-gold hair, this was the fashionable colour, and ladies dyed their tresses in imitation of the Queen Their hair was dressed in a very elaborate style, and false hair was in so much demand that

“ The golden tresses of the dead,  
The right of sepulchres, were shorn away  
To live a second life on second head ”.

The poorer women often sold their locks for a goodly sum to their more fortunate sisters.

Male attire was equally grand. The doublet or coat was of silk or velvet, and often lined with fur; and the short trunk breeches, padded to resemble bolsters, were of the same material, while the long, tight-fitting hose were usually the same bright colour as the suit. Slashed shoes, gaily decorated, and the ruff, completed the very elaborate costume of an Elizabethan courtier, who, when out-of-doors, put on a hip-length cloak—similar to the one Raleigh is said to have laid at the Queen's feet—and a velvet hat, plumed and decorated with gold and silver lace.

### Sports and Pastimes

Let us see how the people amused themselves in these “ Merrie England ” days

All Feast days, such as Christmas, Candlemas, Shrovetide, Easter, Lady Day, Midsummer Day, and Martinmas, were the occasions of much merry-making and rejoicing

“ Sports and fooleries, feasts and frolics, games and revels fill the joyous days.” All ordinary work



A Garden-party in the days of Queen Elizabeth

was stopped, and dancing, singing, and ring games were freely indulged in. For the May Day festival, a huge maypole was set up on the village green, and gaily decorated on the eve before. Then May Day revels began at sunrise the next morning and lasted till evening. The Morris dancers, dressed in all their finery, with bells jingling at their waists and round their ankles, and carrying sticks trimmed with bright, fluttering ribbons, performed round the maypole. Then the May Queen was crowned, and sprigs of hawthorn laid at her feet. Strolling players and professional tumblers afforded amusement for young and old. Wrestling matches, fencing and hurling, quoits, conjurers and maybe a cock-fight, all contributed to make these times "merrie".

Many of the sports were extremely cruel, but the people of Tudor times were very callous, due, perhaps, to the burnings and public executions which were such frequent occurrences in those days. Bear-baiting and bull-baiting were regarded by the most refined as great sport, and the onlookers derived pleasure from the torture inflicted on the tethered bear or bull, when it was maddened with whips and sticks, and then left to the mercy of a pack of great dogs who worried it till it died. Also, cocks were sometimes tied to posts and pelted with stones or beaten with sticks.

Hunting and hawking were probably the most popular forms of outdoor sport of the wealthy. The hawking parties, in which the women accompanied the men, set off early in the morning, usually on horseback, and the birds were trained with the



greatest skill. The hawk was fastened to the wrist by a strap, and was hooded until the sport began. When the partridges, quails, or woodcocks were seen, the hawk was released, and seldom missed its prey.

Hunting with the hounds for deer, badgers, or wild boar was universal among the rich, who spent two or three days of every week in this sport.

The knightly tournaments of the Middle Ages had almost disappeared at the close of Tudor Days, for masques and pageants had taken their place; and, with the advent of theatres and properly-staged plays, they died right out.

Tennis was made very popular by Henry VIII, who is said to have played a fine game. He played in Westminster Hall, and modern workmen have found several balls in the roof. Golf, hockey, football, quarterstaff, and wrestling were also enjoyed, and a smooth close-turfed bowling green was an essential part of all the large gardens of Tudor manor houses, for this was a favourite game in the sixteenth century. On winter evenings, games of chess, draughts, and cards were played; while music and dancing were the accompaniments of all banquets and special occasions. Henry VIII was a fine harpist, and Elizabeth played the lute and viol "with marvellouse skill." Indeed, it was an important part of the upbringing of all children of Tudor gentlemen, that they should be taught to play some musical instrument and learn to dance well, while the women and girls spent much of their leisure time in doing fine needlework and wonderful embroideries.



A musical instrument of the time of Elizabeth. It is called a Cittern

### Roads and Travel

The usual mode of travel in Tudor times was on horseback for the rich, and on foot for the poor, while teams of pack-horses carried goods from village to village. Coaches were first introduced into England in Elizabeth's reign, but they were very simple in design, being without springs, and having only curtains to protect the occupants from wind and weather. They were seldom used, except for special occasions. The country roads were still very rough, and almost impassable in winter, when their muddy state made travelling very uncomfortable and dangerous. It was a daily occurrence at this time of the year for wagons to get stuck in the deep ruts, where they had to stay until help came from the nearest

farm. The following extract by Defoe describes the country roads of this period:

"The highways lie in a most shameful manner in most parts of the kingdom, and in many places wholly impassable. I have seen the road, sixty to a hundred yards broad, lie from side to side all poached with cattle, the land of no manner of benefit, and yet no going with a horse but at every step up to the shoulders, full of sloughs and holes and covered with standing mud"

An Act had been passed in 1555 which commanded the churchwardens and the constable of

every parish to summon the parishioners together in Easter week, to choose "two honest persons to be called Surveyors for one year of the works for the amendment of the Highways in their Parish



Transport in Tudor times

leading to any Market Town". The persons elected were compelled to take office or pay a fine of £5 to the local Justice of the Peace. Their duties were certainly not pleasant, for three times a year they had to "view all roads, highways, water-

courses, bridges, and pavements, within the precincts", send a faithful report of them to the Justice of the Peace, and then, where necessary, get their fellow parishioners to repair them, each one called upon being compelled by Statute to work for six days unpaid "Every householder, cottager, and labourer, able to labour and being no hired servant, was either to go himself to work or to send one sufficient labourer in his stead." But this system was very unsatisfactory, for neither the Surveyor nor the workers knew anything of the job in hand.

Other perils besides bad roads awaited unfortunate travellers, for the forest land on either side of the lonely roads was infested with robbers and outlaws, who lay in wait to plunder and often to slay their unlucky victims. Thus, whenever possible, a number of travellers journeyed together for safety. On the main roads there were plenty of inns and alehouses where shelter and refreshment could be obtained; but the sleeping traveller always kept his weapons by his bedside in case of attack, and slept with his purse beneath his pillow.

### A Tudor Town

As England had developed into a wool manufacturing country of much importance during the sixteenth century, many towns had sprung up all over the land. The manufacture of cloth was taught in the remotest villages and hamlets by the Flemings, who had come over in increasing numbers to seek refuge from the religious strife abroad. Thus

specialized forms of the wool trade were appearing in different parts of England. The worsted trade was carried on mainly in the eastern counties; the making of broadcloth in the west, while the north, which had been almost a barren waste since it was devastated by fire in William the Conqueror's reign, was now becoming peopled, and Manchester, York, and Leeds were becoming famous for the manufacture of various kinds of cloth.

As a rule, the streets in the towns were very narrow and the roads were unmade; there was merely a narrow path next to the houses which was roughly cobbled. A deep hollow, or kennel, ran down the middle of the road, and the refuse which collected there was washed down by the rain to the river or to the bottom of the hill, where it lay until someone cleared it away. Thus bad smells abounded, and plagues visited the towns from time to time.

The houses in these narrow town streets were of wood and plaster, and the second storey so far overhung the first, that it was quite easy to lean out of your window and shake hands with your neighbour on the opposite side of the road. This made the streets dark and stuffy, for little fresh air or sunshine could penetrate there.

Signs swung from the shop doors to tell the kind of wares that were sold within, and at night, lanterns were hung outside many of the houses to light up the way.

On Feast days in London, it was the custom for well-to-do townsmen to load tables outside their houses with good fare, and invite the passers-by to

join them in their merry-making. Apprentices were easily recognized by their uniform—a flat cap, blue gown, and white breeches and stockings—and when their work for the day was done, they played football and other games in the streets, often to the annoyance of peaceful citizens. Brawls, too, were common, in which the apprentices were almost always concerned.

Most of the shops were open to the street—the shutters being removed during the day and used as a counter for the display of the goods for sale, unless there was a special stall in the window. Almost all the business was done in the street, and one of the apprentices generally stood outside the shop shouting, “What d’ye lack; Come buy, come buy”, at the same time keeping an eye on his master’s goods, for thieves abounded in the town as in the country. Up to Tudor times, all the wares were made on the premises where the merchant, his family, and apprentices lived; but now, shops where the goods were merely sold were springing up, and so, much more space was devoted to the display of the articles for sale.

In the early days of the gilds, it had become the custom for all the shops of one trade to occupy their own part of the town, so that the goods could be easily supervised. The mercers lived on London Bridge, the bankers in Lombard Street, the grocers in Buckersbury, and the booksellers in St. Paul’s Churchyard. Cheapside was the most fashionable and most frequented street, “chepe” meaning market.

We are told that Queen Elizabeth, fearing that London was becoming overcrowded, although its population was only about the same as that of Brighton to-day, forbade the erection of further houses in the city or within three miles of the city walls. But London, in spite of this, continued to grow.

## HEADINGS AND HINTS FOR NOTES

### LIFE IN TUDOR TIMES

(a) *The Manor House* Gateway—park—deer—red brick—tall chimneys—turrets, &c—flower beds—lake—bowling green—wide chimney piece—tapestries—wood carving—beds—servants—library—herbs—food—garden produce—beverage

#### (b) *Dress*

- 1 *Ladies.* Costly—Queen's dress—Court robes—jewels—ruff—stockings—hair
- 2 *Gentlemen* Doublet—breeches—hose—bright colours—ruff—cloak—hat.

(c) *Sports and Pastimes.* Feast Days—May Day—Morris Dancers—Wrestling—Fencing—cock fighting—cruel sports—hunting—hawks—tennis—chess—music—needlework.

(d) *Road and Travel* Horseback—coach—roads rough—dangerous—robbers—travellers—inns—weapons

(e) *Towns* Manufacture of cloth—worsted—broadcloth—north—streets—kennel—houses—signs—lanterns—feast days—apprentices—football—brawls—shop shutters—making of wares—situation of trades—Cheapside—London.

## EXERCISES

1. Describe briefly the exterior of a Manor House and its grounds
2. Suppose you could visit an Elizabethan Manor House—what would you see within?
3. Describe the Court dress of either a lady or a gentleman of Elizabeth's time
4. Say what you know of Feast Days, May Days, Morris Dancers
5. Give a list of the games played during this period, and describe one in detail.
6. What do you think of some of their sports?
7. Why was travel difficult and dangerous?
8. What do you know about apprentices?
9. Describe a Tudor Town
10. How had the conditions of life improved since Mediæval days?
11. Say what was grown in the kitchen gardens of Tudor times. By whom had most of these things been introduced?

## EXTRACT

## IMPROVEMENTS IN TUDOR TIMES

"There are old men yet dwelling in the village where I remane, which have noted three things to be marvelouslie altered in England withun their sound remembrance, and other three things, too, too much increased. One is the multitude of chimneys latelie erected, whereas in their yong daies there were not above two or three, if so many, in most uplandish townes of the realme, but each one made his fire against a reredosse in the hall, where he dined and dressed his meat

"The second is the great (although not generall) amendment of lodging for (said they) our fathers (yea and we



ourselves also) have lain full oft upon straw pallets on rough mats covered onelie with a sheet, under coverlets made of dagswain or hopharlots (I use their owne termes) and a good round log under their heads, instead of a bolster or pillow. If it were so that our fathers or the good man of the house, had withun seven yeares after his mariage purchased a matteres or flockebed, and thereto a sack of chaffe to rest his head upon, he thought himself to be as well lodged as the lord of the town, that peradventure late seldome in a bed of downe or whole feathers.

"The third thing they tell of, is the exchange of vessell, as of treene (made of tree) platters into pewter, and wooden spoones into silver or tin .

"The farmer to-day will thinke his gaines verie small toward the end of his terme, if he have not six or seven yeares rent lying by him to purchase a new lcase, beside a faire gainish of pewter on his cup bord, with so much more in od vessell going about the house, three or foure featherbeds, so manie coverlets and carpets of tapistrie, a silver salt, a bowle for wine, and a dozen of spoons"—William Harrison *The Description of England, Book II, Ch XII.*

### EXERCISES ON EXTRACT

1. Mention any improvements made in Manor Houses during Tudor days
2. What caused the increased prosperity of the farmer class in the later part of the 16th century?

### BOOKS FOR REFERENCE AND ADDITIONAL READING

L F Salzan *England in Tudor Times*  
 Whicher and Mitchell *English People of the Past, Vol II.*  
 M. B Synge *Social Life in England*

## SEVENTH PERIOD

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### THE HOUSE OF STEWART

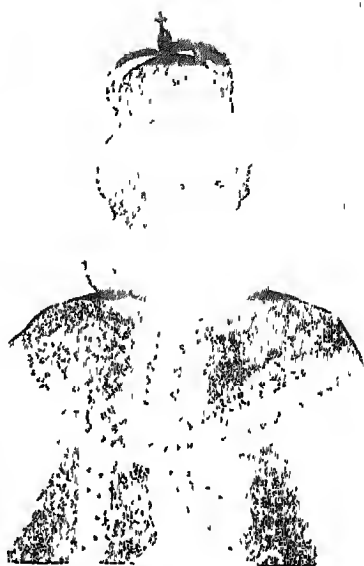
#### James I

In 1603, when Queen Elizabeth died, a messenger rode post-haste to Edinburgh, to inform James VI of Scotland, son of the ill-fated Mary Queen of Scots, that he had been proclaimed James I, King of England, before the Palace of Whitehall. So England and Scotland were henceforward to be ruled by one sovereign. Another century was to pass, however, before they were governed by the same Parliament, for although James was very anxious for the complete union of the two countries, the English Parliament did not wish it, and Scotland continued to make her own laws until 1707.

James, the first king of the Stewart line, was nearly thirty-seven years old. He had been King of Scotland almost from his cradle, for when his mother was imprisoned in Loch Leven Castle, she was compelled by the Scots to resign her throne to her infant son, then barely a year old.

James had been brought up by the "Lords of the Congregation", that strict body of Scottish Presbyterians who governed the Church of Scotland, and who resisted all attempts at control by the Crown. In religion, therefore, he was certainly a Protestant, accepting the doctrines of John Calvin, who was the founder of the Presbyterian sect.

Nevertheless, James hated the Presbyterian system of Church government, and was strongly in favour of the Episcopal Church with rule by bishops, appointed by, and under the direct control of the Sovereign. This, of course, was the system of the Established Church in England, and throughout his reign, James was strongly supported by the High Church party. In character James Stewart was described by a French



James I

statesman as "the wisest fool in Christendom".

There was nothing of the Tudor majesty about the new king, for he was not attractive either in appearance or manners. A writer of the time thus describes him. "He was of middle stature, more corpulent through his clothes than in his body, yet fat enough, his clothes ever being made large and easy, the doublet quilted so as to be proof against stilettos; he was naturally of a timorous disposition, which accounted for his quilted doublets; his eye large, ever rolling after any stranger who came in his presence. His beard was very thin; his tongue too large for his mouth, which made him drink very uncomely, as if eating his drink, which

came out into the cup at each side of his mouth. His skin was as soft as taffeta sarsenet, which felt so, because he never washed his hands, only rubbed his finger ends slightly with the wet end of a napkin. His legs were very weak, which weakness made him ever leaning on other men's shoulders; his walk was ever circular."

However, James I was a man of considerable learning, but he lacked statesmanship. Unlike the Tudors, he was no judge of character, and, after the death of his wise counsellor, Robert Cecil, the son of Elizabeth's great minister, Lord Burghley, he chose men of little wisdom, and ruled entirely under the influence of his favourites. The first of these was a young Scottish page, Robert Carr, who was made Earl of Somerset. After a brief period he became involved in the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury, an old friend, and on the charge being proved, he was dismissed from the Court in disgrace.

George Villiers, a handsome young adventurer, had a very rapid rise to fame. He attracted the attention of James by his good looks and his charming personality. James made him Duke of Buckingham, and entrusted him with the highest offices of state. So great was his influence with the king, that the most powerful nobles in the land feared to offend him. "Never any man in any age, nor, I believe, in any country," says Clarendon, "rose in so short a time to so much greatness of honour, power or fortune, upon no other recommendation than of the beauty or gracefulness of his person."



Boys' games in the seventeenth century

1 Playing marbles, 2, 3, ninepins, 4, 5, knocking a ball through a hoop, 6, 7, whip-top, 8, shooting with a blowpipe, 9, a crossbow, 10 stunts, 11, swinging

This was the man who, in the next reign, was destined to cause so much trouble between king and people

#### Authorized Version of the Bible

Although the religious settlement in the reign of Elizabeth had done much to solve the religious question in England, there was still much dissension in the Church. The Catholics, on the one hand, were ever striving for a return to Papal authority, while the Puritans viewed with the gravest disapproval the ceremonies and adornments of the recognized Church, pleading that the images,

pictures, vestments, and stained-glass windows caused their minds to wander from God. They demanded the right to worship in a simpler way, and objected to the use of the Prayer Book, because they claimed that Prayers from the heart were more to God's liking than those from the printed page.

Both these religious parties looked with high hopes for concessions from James. The Catholics thought that, as his mother, Mary Queen of Scots, had been a staunch Roman Catholic, he would surely favour their cause. On the other hand, the Puritans remembered his strict upbringing among the Scottish Presbyterian Reformers, and hastened to present to him a Petition, asking for changes in the form of worship and a much simpler church service.

James called to mind that the Scottish Presbyterians had entirely disregarded his authority before he became King of England, and he therefore strongly supported the rule of bishops in the Church. He was wont to say, "No bishop, no king", meaning thereby, that the next step after doing away with bishops would be doing away with kings.

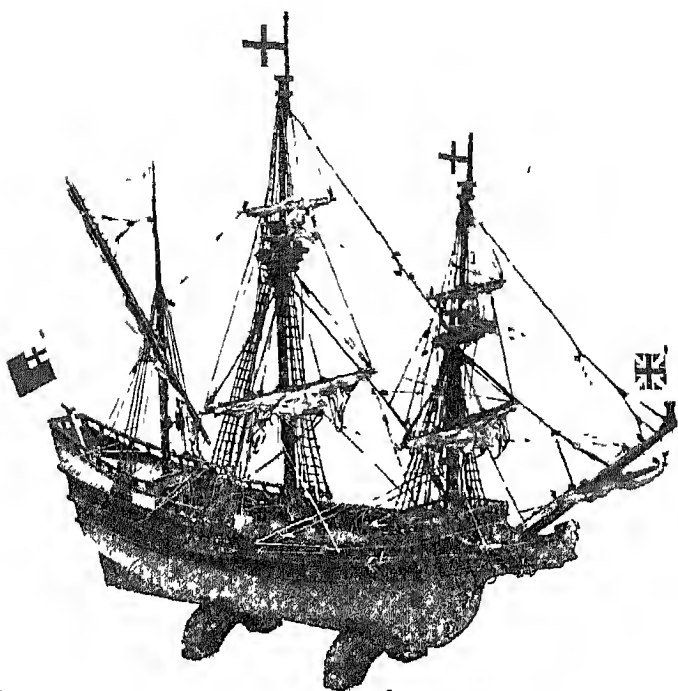
However, James summoned four of the Puritan leaders to meet him and his Churchmen at a Conference at Hampton Court in 1604. None of their demands was granted, and only a few minor alterations were made in the Prayer Book. But, as a result of this Conference, the Bible was rewritten by a committee of forty-seven selected men, who worked for seven years faithfully and carefully revising the edition then in use. You will remember that, in the fourteenth century, Wycliffe had made

the first translation of the Bible from the Greek form into English, and in Henry VIII's reign, other versions had been made by Tyndale and Coverdale. The result of the labours of this committee was the Authorized Version of the Bible, published in 1611, and described as "the most majestic in our literature, and the most spiritually living thing which we inherit". It was dedicated to King James, and at the beginning of the Bible you can still read the letter written to him by the committee when their work was completed.

### The Pilgrim Fathers

James found the Puritans stubborn in their demands for freedom of worship, and he decided that they should either obey the laws of his Church, or he would drive them out of the land. So harshly were they treated, that many Puritan clergy gave up their livings and went abroad. Some settled in Holland, while, in 1620, one hundred and two Puritans set sail from Plymouth in a little ship called the *Mayflower*, on a long perilous voyage to find a land where they would be free to worship God as they thought right.

For many weeks the little craft of these Pilgrim Fathers, as they were afterwards called, sailed on, tossed by the storms of the Atlantic. Finally they sighted land. Their goal was Virginia—the colony founded by Raleigh in the previous reign—but the *Mayflower* came to land much farther north, near Cape Cod. They called their country New England, and for many years the little colony of



*The Mayflower*

settlers suffered great hardships, and they were never far from starvation. But they were brave, strong, and determined, and in the end founded the town of Plymouth, which became a prosperous centre. Time passed, and the settlements developed into the great republic now known as the United States of America

#### **The Gunpowder Plot**

The Roman Catholics were bitterly disappointed at the attitude of James towards Roman Catholicism,



and angry at the harsh measures and heavy fines imposed on them because they refused to attend divine service on Sundays. So a plot was made to rid England of the king and his nobles. It was planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament on the day fixed for the reassembly of the members. Robert Catesby, a Warwickshire squire, was the leader of this foolhardy plot, and, together with several Catholic gentlemen, he arranged to hire the cellars under the Houses of Parliament. An old soldier named Guy Fawkes was put in charge of the digging operations, and the day before Parliament met, all was ready. Twenty barrels of gunpowder had been secretly deposited in the cellars, and carefully covered with coal and faggots of wood. One of the plotters, Lord Tresham, sent an unsigned letter to a relative, Lord Monteagle, whom he wished to warn. This is what he said, "My lord, devise some excuse to shift of your attendance to this Parliament, which shall receive a terrible blow, yet shall not see who hurts them".

The letter was shown to Cecil, the King's wise minister, who took it to James himself. With thoughts of the death of his father, Darnley, by gunpowder, James ordered the cellars underneath the Houses of Parliament to be searched on the night of 4th November, 1605. Guy Fawkes was arrested where he stood guarding the barrels of gunpowder. He was tortured most cruelly to reveal the names of his fellow conspirators, and refused to do so, until his sufferings were so frightful that he could no longer keep silence. All the captured

plotters were executed with Guy Fawkes the following year, and great indignation was aroused all over England against the Roman Catholics as a result of the "Gunpowder Plot". Laws against them were made much more severe, and all hope of toleration for Catholics was over.

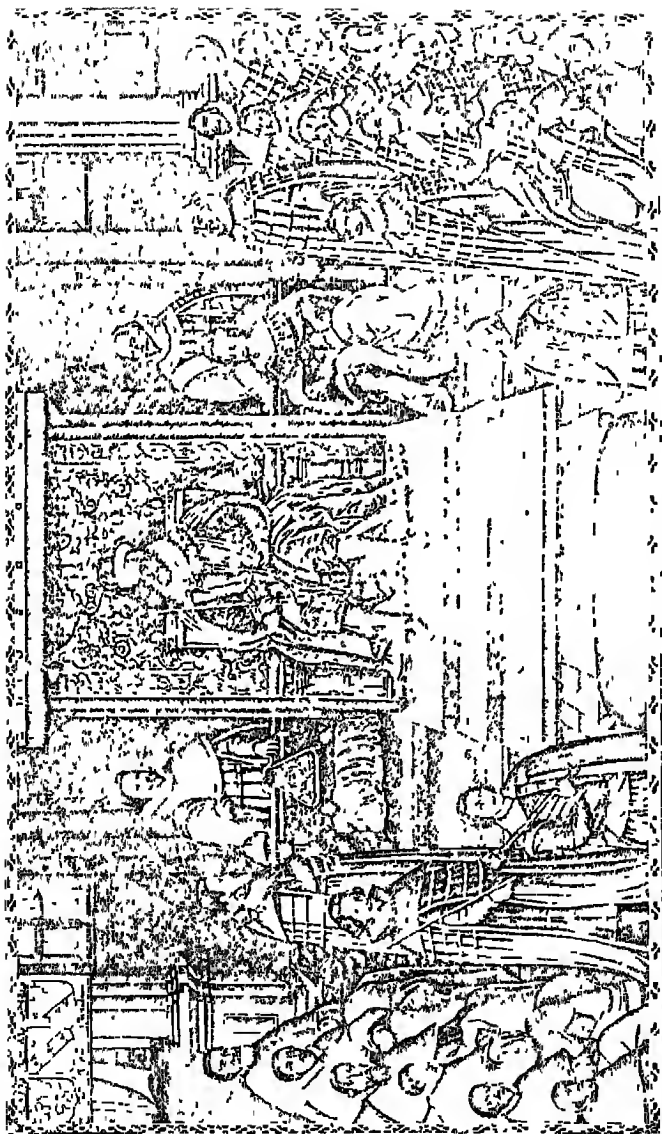
The Houses of Parliament are still searched before Parliament reassembles each session, and the 5th of November is celebrated with bonfires, fireworks, and the burning of "guys".

#### **Divine Right of Kings**

James Stewart came to rule England with the firm idea that, as he was God's chosen representative, no man must resist his will, which was above all law. "It is high contempt in a subject, to dispute what a king can do, or to say that a king cannot do this and that," he said. This foolish belief, held by all the Stewart kings, that their subjects owed complete obedience to them because they were appointed by God, was the cause of that long struggle between King and Parliament which ultimately resulted in the Civil War, and in the loss of his life by King Charles, the son of James I.

#### **The King and Parliament**

English Parliaments had long maintained their rights. As far back as 1215, when Magna Carta was signed, an English king had been brought to bay, and forced to redress grievances before supplies were granted. The power of Parliament had continued to grow since that time, so that James was



James I sitting in Parliament

face to face with the long-established Statutes made in Plantagenet days, that there could be no taxation except by consent of Parliament. In other words, Parliament held the purse strings of the nation

James, therefore, summoned Parliament, and, finding they could not agree, dismissed them again and again. As a matter of fact, he ruled without a Parliament during half of his reign, and in consequence he was obliged to resort to illegal methods of taxation, to provide himself with enough money for his personal wants and gaities. He collected benevolences, or forced loans, and sold monopolies freely. Further, the sale of baronetcies, a new and higher order of knighthood than that already existing, also provided him with large sums of money. In addition to the usual customs duties of tonnage and poundage, which had always been granted to the Sovereign, James "imposed" extra duties or "impositions" on other merchandise.

#### The Spanish Policy

James was anxious to bring about a marriage between his son, Prince Charles, and a Spanish Princess, and summoned Parliament to grant money for this purpose. The English people looked with grave disfavour and mistrust upon the proposed alliance between England and her old enemy Spain, which was still the champion of Catholicism in Europe. So Parliament petitioned that Charles should marry a Protestant. James told them not to "meddle in the mysteries of state", and said that

the privileges of Parliament were derived from the king alone. Parliament replied to this by recording in its journals the famous protest, "The Liberties of the Parliament are a birthright of the English people, not a gift of the Crown". James answered this by tearing out the leaf on which the protest was written, and by dismissing the Parliament forthwith.

James's beautiful daughter, Elizabeth, had married Frederick, the Elector Palatine of Germany, a staunch Protestant. A hundred years later this union gave England the kings of the House of Hanover. When war broke out in 1618 between the Catholics and the Protestants in Germany, all good English Protestants looked to James to send help to his son-in-law, to support the cause of their brother Protestants. James tried to avoid this by securing the friendship of Spain, through whose influence he hoped the Palatinate would be restored to Frederick.

You have read how Raleigh was executed because he gave offence to Spain when he opposed the Spaniards on his last expedition in search of gold. James readily agreed to shed the blood of this great Elizabethan, in order to atone for the affront he had given to Spain.

Now he was agitating for the Spanish marriage, and holding back the help that the German Protestants were sorely in need of, in order to maintain that friendship with Spain which was so distasteful to all Englishmen. At last, Buckingham urged that he should accompany Prince Charles to Spain,

where the young Prince could pay his addresses to the Spanish Princess in person. The real object of Spain in considering this marriage was now laid bare. It was demanded that the children of the marriage should be brought up in the Roman Catholic faith, that the Princess should be provided with a Spanish household, and that complete toleration should be given to English Catholics.

Success after success met the Catholic forces in Germany, and when the conquest of the Palatinate was completed, the Elector had to seek refuge in Holland. Buckingham begged Spain to help to restore Frederick's kingdom in Germany. But the King of Spain made it clear that he could not fight against Catholics. This made Buckingham realize that Spain had been deceiving him with false hopes, and he at once broke off the arrangements for the marriage. When Prince Charles returned to England without his Spanish Princess, the national joy knew no bounds. Bonfires were lighted, and feasts and merrymaking were the order of the day.

Active preparations, backed wholeheartedly by the English nation, were now begun to send help to the Elector Frederick. Parliament willingly voted a sum of money for this purpose. A force of twelve thousand men, very badly equipped, and untrained, was sent to the Netherlands, but the expedition was entirely unsuccessful, and most of the soldiers perished from cold and exposure.

Then in 1625 James died, leaving the throne to his twenty-five year old son, Charles I. Discontent was

general in England, because of the late king's disregard of the privileges of Parliament, in Scotland, because he had tried to restore Episcopal rule in the Church, and in Ireland, on account of his banishment of the Earls of North Ireland, whose lands he had given to English and Scottish settlers. It was not likely that Charles would have a peaceful reign, but things turned out even worse than most Englishmen imagined.

#### Charles I and Parliament

In appearance, Charles had all that his father had lacked. He was handsome, dignified, and king-like. Moreover, he was studious, very artistic, and a most affectionate husband and father. But his ideas of divine right were, unfortunately, the same as his father's, and he was soon in trouble with his Parliament over the vexed question of finance.

Buckingham continued to rule England in everything but name; and his influence with the new king was even greater than it had been with James I. Charles married the French Princess, Henrietta Maria, who was a Roman Catholic, and, on her behalf, Buckingham secretly promised toleration to Catholics and help for them in France. The crushing defeat of the forces sent to help the Protestants in Germany, and shortly afterwards, the failure of the expedition sent to Cadiz under Buckingham himself, added to the great unpopularity of the king's chief counsellor. Parliament refused to consider the question of supplies until Buckingham was dismissed. "He is an enemy of Church and



Charles I



State," they declared, and formally impeached the hated favourite. Charles hastily dissolved Parliament to save Buckingham's head.

Then illegal methods of taxation were again brought into play to provide the king with money. Forced loans were demanded, and those who refused them were punished with imprisonment. Tonnage and Poundage, which had been granted only for one year in 1625 by Charles's first Parliament, was collected as usual, and soldiers were billeted freely on private citizens, who were ordered to feed them.

Buckingham, in a last attempt to win honour for himself and Charles, had undertaken another expedition on behalf of the French Huguenots. Probably this was the most badly organized expedition ever sent abroad. Moreover, supplies failed and disease overcame the men, so that once again utter failure was the result, and great was the anger in England at this added disgrace.

#### The Petition of Right

When the third Parliament met in 1628, Buckingham was blamed for all the troubles at home and abroad, and the members would vote no money until "grievances had been redressed."

So the Petition of Right, the second Great Charter of English liberties, was drawn up. This petition declared that it was illegal.

1. To levy benevolences, forced loans, or taxes, without the consent of Parliament.

- 2 To imprison any Englishman except on a definite charge.
3. To billet soldiers on private householders, without payment.
4. To proclaim martial law in time of peace.

Mainly in order to save Buckingham, Charles promised all these things. Money was at once voted to the king by Parliament. But when Charles claimed tonnage and poundage as his rightful due, and continued to levy these taxes without Parliament's consent, the quarrel broke out again immediately. Charles dissolved Parliament in anger, and made up his mind never to summon another. Furthermore, he seized some of the leading members of Parliament. One of them, Sir John Eliot, was imprisoned in the Tower, where he died of consumption three years later. Eliot's famous words, "None have gone about to break Parliaments, but in the end Parliaments have broken them", proved prophetic when Charles was condemned to death by Parliament some twenty years later.

#### Eleven Years' Tyranny

Buckingham was murdered at Portsmouth, just as he was ready to set out on a fresh expedition abroad. His murderer was acclaimed a national hero, and the whole country rejoiced to be rid of Buckingham.

A new favourite appeared soon after Buckingham's death. This was Sir Thomas Wentworth, and no king ever had a better servant than he, and no

servant a more ungrateful master than Charles proved to be. Wentworth had been one of the strongest opponents of the king in his early Parliaments, and his sudden change of side has been attributed sometimes to ambition, and sometimes to his dislike of the stern rule of the Puritans who composed such a large part of all the Parliaments at this time. When Wentworth deserted the cause of the people, Pym, one of the opposition leaders, said bitterly, "You have left us, but we will never leave you while your head is on your shoulders".

Wentworth became the foremost champion of absolute rule, and the king, with his help and that of Archbishop Laud, ruled England for eleven years without summoning Parliament to meet. Neither Laud nor Wentworth would tolerate any opposition to their will, and they crushed all those who tried to resist them. They adopted the motto "Thorough", and their combined object was to make Charles supreme in Church and State.

Laud was a strict but narrow-minded churchman of the High Church Party. He believed in most of the doctrines, forms, and ceremonies of the Roman Church, but refused to acknowledge the Papal authority. The Puritans bitterly opposed his attempts to impose on them his Prayer Book and High Church services. In consequence, many conscientious Puritans left England to seek freedom of worship abroad, for they said Laud was trying to bring England once more under the yoke of Rome.



An "old clothes man" of the seventeenth century

Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, was made President of the North, and speedily revived the Council of the North, which had been set up by Henry VIII after the rising known as the Pilgrimage of Grace. It was conducted on similar lines to the Court of Star Chamber, and by its aid Wentworth collected the old feudal dues, which had not been paid for some time, although they were perfectly legal charges. The landowners and nobles of the North soon learned that to

attempt to defy Black Tom Wentworth, or evade the payments he demanded of them, meant heavy fines, and even imprisonment if they persisted in their refusal to pay.

After restoring perfect order in the north of England, Wentworth was sent as Deputy to Ireland, where there were constant and bitter quarrels between Protestants and Catholics. His rule in Ireland was as "thorough" as it had been in the north of England, and order was

soon restored. He planted the flax-plant in the north of Ireland, and this was the beginning of the linen trade of Ulster, which has since brought such prosperity to that province. An Irish army was trained, and Wentworth held this in



A Bellman who acted as night-watchman in the seventeenth century  
He went round calling out the hour and the state of the weather

readiness for emergencies either in Ireland or England.

Although Wentworth had provided his master with large sums of money from extortions made by the Council of the North, and from heavy fines extracted from rebels in Ireland, yet Charles was

always in need of money. Benevolences, impositions, granting of monopolies to the highest bidder, collecting tonnage and poundage, and selling knight-hoods to all who had a yearly income of more than £40, were some of the illegal means which Charles used to provide himself with money. Nearly everyone in the country was discontented, and when Charles attempted to collect from inland towns Ship Money—a tax hitherto levied only on ports in order to provide money for coast defence—John Hampden, a wealthy Buckinghamshire squire, refused to pay. He was tried, and judgment was given for the king by seven votes to five. But public opinion was in favour of Hampden, and Charles became more unpopular than ever.

Matters were brought to a head when Archbishop Laud attempted to reform the Scottish Church, and to force on the Scots a Prayer Book similar to the English one. The Scots rose in arms, and men of all ranks signed the National Covenant, swearing to resist to the death these proposals of Laud. An army was collected—much superior to any Charles could muster—and in the “Bishops’” War of 1639 the Scots were entirely victorious. The need for money to pay his troops and maintain an army against the Scots compelled Charles to summon Parliament in 1640. He had carried on without one for eleven years, and the temper of the one which met him after this long period of absolute rule can be seen from the stern measures it adopted.

It was first resolved that Parliament hence-

forward must be called every three years, and could not be dissolved without its own consent. Then it proceeded to impeach Laud and Strafford. The king had given a solemn promise to Wentworth that not a hair of his head should suffer harm. In 1641, when he was pressed by the yelling mob outside his palace at Whitehall to sign his favourite's death warrant, he betrayed his word, and Strafford met his fate on the scaffold bravely. His last words were, "Put not your trust in Princes". Laud was also beheaded four years later.

The Court of Star Chamber and all similar Courts were abolished.

In 1641 a fearful rebellion broke out in Ireland, when the Protestants of Ulster were most brutally massacred by the Roman Catholics, whose lands had been seized during Strafford's rule as Deputy. The English Puritans were greatly angered and highly indignant at the outrage, and, believing the rebellion had been secretly encouraged by the king, they drew up the Grand Remonstrance, blaming Charles for his misgovernment.

The Puritan members of the House did all they could to get rid of Bishops in the Church. Many, however, were opposed to this and would willingly have made peace with Charles. Unfortunately, the



A Pikeman of the Army  
of Charles I

king was guided by the foolish counsels of his wife, and he rashly determined to march with an armed force to arrest, on a charge of treason, the five members of Parliament most hostile to him. On his arrival, he found that the "birds had flown." By this unconstitutional act, Charles lost the support of many who wished to forget their grievances against him and to give him a chance to start afresh.

War was now inevitable, and for seven years civil war raged over England.

## HEADINGS AND HINTS FOR NOTES

### JAMES I.

Stewart Line — Religion — Character — Appearance — Learning—Favourites—Robert Carr—George Villiers

*Authorized Version of the Bible* Dissension—Catholics—Puritans—Images—Right to Worship—Prayer Book—Petition—Hampton Court Conference—Forty-seven Men—Result

*Pilgrim Fathers* Freedom of Worship—Puritan Clergy—*Mayflower*—Virginia—New England—Hardships—Plymouth—United States

*The Gunpowder Plot* Catholics—Fines—Divine Service—Plot—Robert Catesby—Guy Fawkes—Gunpowder—Cellar—Lord Tresham—James—Search—Plotters Executed—Laws—Houses of Parliament of to-day—Divine Right of Kings—God's chosen Representative—Parliament and King

*King and Parliament* Power of Parliament—Dismissed—Methods of Taxation—Impositions.



*Spanish Policy* Proposed Alliance—Famous Protest—  
Hanover—War in Germany—Friendship with Spain  
—Buckingham's Visit—Result—Help for Frederick  
—Death of James I

## CHARLES I AND PARLIAMENT

Appearance and Character of Charles I—Divine Right—  
Buckingham—Impeached—Illegal Taxation—Failure  
of Expedition

*Petition of Right* Clauses—Parliament Dismissed—Sir  
John Eliot

*Eleven Years' Tyranny* Buckingham's Death—Wentworth  
—Pym—Archbishop Laud—"Thorough"—Con-  
scientious Puritans—Council of the North—Straf-  
ford's Irish Rule—Rule in England—Ship Money—  
National Covenant—Bishops' War—Parliament—  
Wentworth's death—Rebellion in Ireland—Five  
Members of Parliament—Result

## EXERCISES

- 1 Write a few lines on the appearance, character, and religion of James I
- 2 What were the chief religious parties at this time? Write a brief account of each
- 3 Say what you know about the Authorized Version of the Bible.
- 4 Write all you can about the Pilgrim Fathers
- 5 (a) What was the cause of the Gunpowder Plot?  
(b) Name some of the leaders (c) What was the result?
- 6 Give the clauses of the *Petition of Right*
- 7 What do you know of the following Robert Carr, George Villiers, Lord Strafford, Archbishop Laud?
- 8 What do you understand by. (a) "Divine Right of Kings"? (b) "Tonnage and Poundage"? (c) "Ship Money"?

9. Name one event connected with each of the following dates 1603, 1605, 1611, 1620, 1628

10 What do you know about the National Covenant and the "Bishops' War"?

11 Write a short account of the event which finally led to the Civil War.

### MAPS AND PLANS

On a blank map of the world mark the route taken by the Pilgrim Fathers

### EXTRACT

#### THE PETITION OF RIGHT (CHARLES I, 1628)

"They (Parliament) do therefore humbly pray your Most Excellent Majesty, that no man hereafter be compelled to make or yield any gift, loan, benevolence, tax or such like charge, without common consent by Act of Parliament, and that none be called to make answer, or take such oath, or to give attendance, or be confined or otherwise molested or disquieted concerning the same, or for refusal thereof, and that no freeman, in any such manner as is before-mentioned, be imprisoned or detained, and that your Majesty will be pleased to remove the said soldiers and mariners, and that your people may not be so burdened in time to come, and that the foresaid commissions for proceeding by martial law, may be revoked and annulled, and that hereafter no commissions of like nature may issue forth to any person or persons whatsoever, to be executed as aforesaid, lest by colour of them, any of your Majesty's subjects be destroyed or put to death, contrary to the laws and franchise of the land

"All which they most humbly pray of your Most Excellent Majesty, as their rights and liberties according to the laws and statutes of this realm And that your Majesty would

also be graciously pleased, for the further comfort and safety of your people, to declare your royal will and pleasure, that in the things aforesaid, all your officers and ministers shall serve you, according to the laws and statutes of this realm, as they tender the honour of your Majesty, and the prosperity of this Kingdom "

## EXERCISES ON EXTRACT

1 Give a list of the grievances Parliament sought to remedy when they drew up the Petition of Right

2 What disaster eventually befell Charles I, owing to his continual disregard of the liberties and rights of the English Parliament?

BOOKS FOR REFERENCE AND  
ADDITIONAL READING

J S Fletcher *Anthony Everton.*

Edna Lyall *In Spite of All*

M Johnston. *The Witch*

W. H Ainsworth. *Guy Fawkes.*

Sir Walter Scott *Fortunes of Nigel*

W H Ainsworth *The Star Chamber.*

A Dumas *The Three Musketeers*

J Wassermann. *The Triumph of Youth.*

## EIGHTH PERIOD

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### THE CIVIL WAR AND THE COMMONWEALTH

#### The Great Civil War, 1642-1649

Charles I raised his standard at Nottingham in 1642. His followers were most of the nobility and their dependents, the High Church Party, country squires, and a large section of the lower classes. The Parliamentarians were supported generally by the trading and middle classes, who were nearly all Puritans. However, help came for both sides from all sections of the community, and often members of the same family found themselves fighting in opposite camps. The strength of the Royalists lay mostly in the north and the west of England, and the stronghold of the Parliamentarians was in the east and the south—Devon and Cornwall being divided in opinion.

London was strongly Parliamentary, and every seaport and the whole of the navy were in their hands. This meant that the king's enemies collected the customs duties. In addition, the merchants and traders supplied plenty of money but few men skilled in arms. On the other hand, most of the trained and organized military forces flocked to the



Map of England and part of Scotland as divided between the King and Parliament  
at the end of 1643

king's standard, while the gentry and nobility were good horsemen, and had been accustomed to use the sword and pistol from their youth

Thus at the outset, Charles's forces were certainly superior to those of his opponents. The Royalists were commonly called Cavaliers, which means horsemen, while the Parliamentarians were nicknamed Roundheads, on account of their close-cropped hair, which contrasted strongly with the long flowing locks of the king's followers.

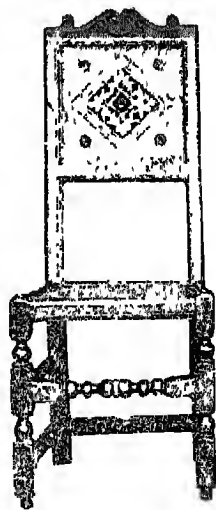
The infantry of both sides carried long heavy muskets which were awkward to load, or pikes, which were spears with flat pointed, two-edged heads. A few field guns were used early in the war, but later the Parliamentarians had heavy siege guns, which played a great part in their victories. The war was conducted with the most marked humanity, bravery, and chivalry by both sides, and, except where the actual fighting took place, civil life went on as usual. At the outset, no one wished to make the king do more than acknowledge the power of Parliament. It was due to his own perfidy and insincerity that he came to lose his head.

In the first part of the war, the advantage lay with the king, whose nephew, Prince Rupert of the Palatinate, was such a brilliant and dashing horseman that his attacks rarely failed. In 1643 Charles arranged for a march on London by three Royalist forces coming from three different directions—Oxford, Yorkshire, and Devonshire. The citizens of London were on the point of surrender, when the Scots offered to send twenty thousand men to

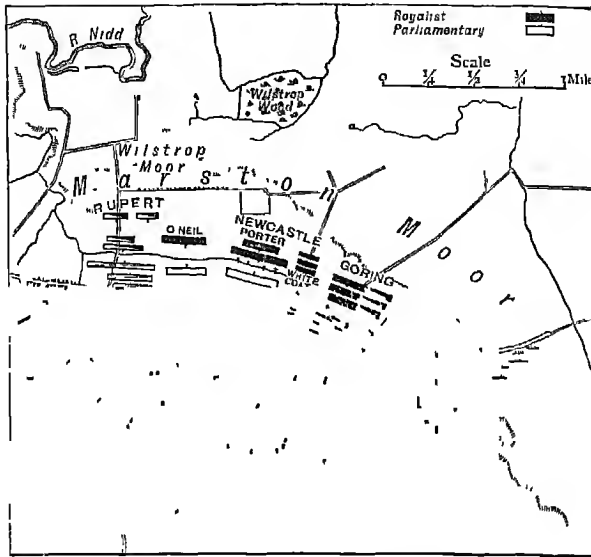
help the Roundheads, on condition that they would undertake to establish the Presbyterian Church system in England, and maintain it in Scotland. This treaty, called the Solemn League and Covenant, was accepted by Parliament and the army in 1643, and Episcopacy was abolished.

### Oliver Cromwell

Oliver Cromwell, a forty-three year old squire of Huntingdonshire, now came forward as a leader of the Roundheads. He was the first to realize the causes which led to the Royalist successes, and he set himself to train a body of horse soldiers and infantry. He chose religious men who fervently believed in his cause; he gave them good horses, and provided them with protective armour. They were drilled with the utmost care, and were so strictly disciplined that they were never known to disobey a command of their leader. From the fact that they were such bold and successful fighters, they became known as Ironsides. At Marston Moor in 1644, a great battle was fought. Cromwell and his Ironsides made such clever attacks that the first decisive victory of the war was won by the Parliamentarians, and the north of England was transferred from the King to Parliament. Cromwell was now acknowledged to be the finest cavalry leader of his day.



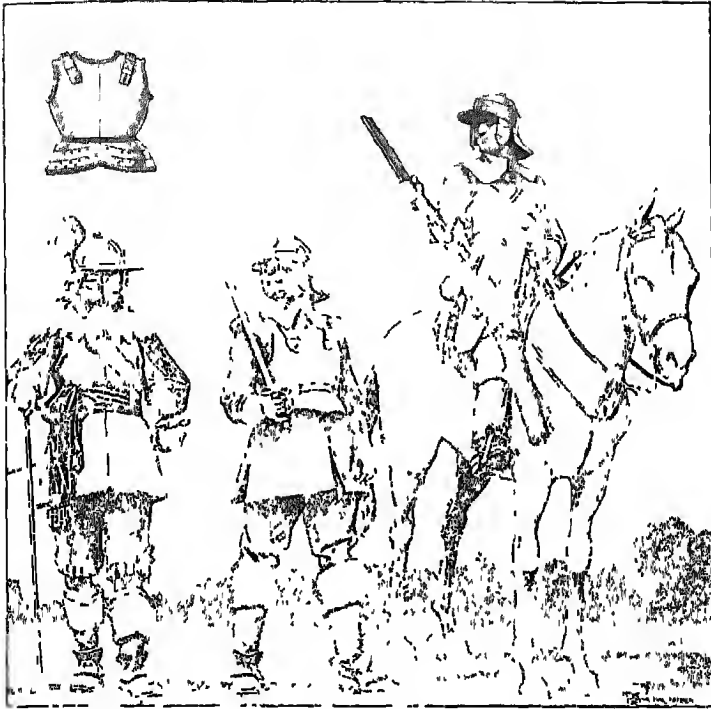
A chair made in the time of Charles I



A Plan of the Battle of Marston Moor

He next set himself to reorganize the Roundhead army. He found new commanders who were fired with the righteousness of their cause and believed that, in fighting against the king's forces, they were fighting against the enemies of God. Regiments were formed under able, well-paid officers. All the men were strictly trained, and, after serving a set time, were free to return to their homes and resume their regular occupations. This New Model Army, as it was called, won its first great victory against the Royalists at Naseby, in Northamptonshire, in 1645. This battle practically ended the war, and the Cavaliers had to flee for their lives. Papers were found in a carriage which the king was





Soldiers of the Civil War  
Cuirassier, dismounted trooper, and dragoon

obliged to abandon in his flight, which showed that he was trying to arrange with two or three parties for help, and this proved again how untrustworthy was his word.

In Scotland, a brave Scotsman, the Earl of Montrose, had raised an army of Highlanders in the king's cause, and, at first, met with much success. When he attempted to subdue the Lowlands, many of his Highland supporters, who were dissatisfied

with their share of the plunder, deserted him. Then a large English force, released after Naseby, marched northwards and defeated him. He escaped to the Continent, and in 1650, after the death of Charles I, returned with soldiers from Germany and France. He was taken prisoner by the Scottish Covenanters and suffered a very cruel fate. He was first tied to a cart and dragged in disgrace to prison, then he was hanged, with the book in which his life was written fastened round his neck. His body was cut up and the parts stuck up in various parts of Scotland to warn future Royalist rebels.

Charles I made great efforts to raise another army in England, but failing, he gave himself up to the Scots, thinking his own people would treat him more leniently than the English. Charles still refused to acknowledge Presbyterianism; and the Scots, to whom great sums of money were owing for military service, agreed to surrender their prisoner to the English Parliament, on condition that the debt of £400,000 owing to them was paid. So in 1647 Charles became the prisoner of his own Parliament. He was taken to Holmby House in Northamptonshire, and treated with the honour and courtesy due to his kingship. Charles now hoped that advantage would come to him from the quarrels of his opponents, for serious differences had arisen between the Parliament and the New Model Army.

Most of the members of Parliament were Presbyterians, and wished, with the Scots, to force their beliefs on all Englishmen. Cromwell and the army were more tolerant and believed in allowing every

man to worship in his own way, except the Roman Catholics, to whom no concessions were made. For this reason they gained the name of Independents.

Parliament now offered to support Charles if he would set up a Presbyterian form of Church government. This caused Cromwell to decide to take things entirely out of their hands. The king's person was seized, and had Charles been wise he would have accepted the terms of peace offered him by the Independents. They merely wanted religious toleration for all except Roman Catholics. However, the king negotiated first with one, then with another; so Cromwell and the army decided that the time for half measures was past. Eventually, after imprisonment in various castles, they began to agitate for the punishment of "Charles Stewart, that man of blood". A series of fresh rebellions broke out on the imprisoned king's behalf, and these started the second Civil War in 1648, which was fatal to him. Both the Scots and the Presbyterians fought for Charles, the former being completely beaten by Cromwell at Preston.

This new evidence of Charles's continued intrigues to regain his throne determined the army to bring him to justice.

Colonel Pride, one of the leaders of the Independents, with a strong body of soldiers, stationed himself outside the door of the Houses of Parliament. He refused admission to all who favoured the king's cause; the remaining members became known as the Rump, and were entirely under the control of

the army. A court was set up for the trial of the king—this being the first time in history that an English king had been brought to answer for his crimes before judges. The king was charged with being a traitor, and with waging war against the people of England. Charles appeared in Westminster Hall on 20th January, 1649, on trial for his life before his bitterest enemies. The king refused to answer the charges against him, saying that no court had any power to try him.

The verdict was determined before the trial began. Charles was pronounced guilty, and condemned to death as a traitor. Bravely and calmly he met his fate. While he was dressing on the morning of his execution, he said, "Death is not terrible to me, I bless God I am prepared". After a short address to his people, with great fortitude Charles laid his head on the block, and, as it fell from his body, a groan of horror fell from the spectators. Never had Charles been nobler than in facing death.

"He nothing common did or mean  
Upon that memorable scene"

Thus the second Stewart king died in 1649, a martyr to the Established Church, and to his beliefs in the Divine Right of Kings.

#### The Commonwealth—1649–1660

After the death of the king, the first acts of the Rump Parliament were to abolish the House of Lords, which they said was useless and dangerous,

and the monarchy. Then a Council of State was appointed, consisting of forty-one selected men, who were to be the real ruling body.

England now became a Republic, or Commonwealth, and was without a king for eleven years. The real master of the State was the Army, and England was ruled by the worst of Tyrannies, the sword.

In Ireland, Prince Charles, the son of Charles I, was proclaimed king, and the Royalists joined the Catholics in a serious rising against the Parliament. Oliver Cromwell, as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, was sent to lead the army against the rebels. Hitherto, he had always been merciful to his foes, now he showed ruthless cruelty, and treated the Irish with the greatest harshness. He stormed the town of Drogheda, and, because it had held out for some time against him, he slaughtered in cold blood three thousand of the inhabitants when they eventually surrendered to him. Further, he dispatched numbers of prisoners as slaves to the West Indies. Rebellion after rebellion was stamped out with terrible severity under Cromwell's direction, and when the country had been brought to complete subjection, General Ireton, the son-in-law of Cromwell, was left to maintain order in Ireland. For many years after, Cromwell's name was regarded with the most bitter hatred by the Irish.

Trouble now arose in Scotland, where Prince Charles had landed. He had been proclaimed king on his promise to rule as a Presbyterian. Fairfax, the Lord General of the English army, held that

the English had no right to meddle in Scottish affairs, and resigned his position. Cromwell took his place, and argued with the Army that, as Charles was the heir to the English throne, it was a hostile act on the part of the Scots to restore him. He defeated the Scots at Dunbar in 1650, but Charles gathered a large army and marched southward into England. Cromwell followed him, and they met at Worcester, where he gained another great victory, which he always described as his "crowning mercy"

Charles made his escape with great difficulty, and his romantic adventures until he got safely out of England formed the plot of many a thrilling story. It is said that he was forced to take refuge in the home of a poor woodcutter at Boscobel. One night he was obliged to shelter in the branches of a leafy oak tree in a wood near by, while the English soldiers were searching for him. His enemies actually stood under the tree where he was hiding, and shook the branches with their muskets when they passed on.

Soon after, Charles set out once more for the coast—this time acting as groom to a Royalist lady. When they halted on the way for the horse to be re-shod, they asked for news and were told by the blacksmith that the Scots had been beaten, but, said he, "that rogue, Charles Stewart, has escaped again." Eventually the young fugitive reached France, and did not return to England until the Restoration.

Scottish affairs were managed excellently well by



Prince Charles, disguised as a groom, riding in front of a Royalist lady

an able army officer, General Monk, who succeeded in restoring such order in Scotland that it was said at the time, "a man may ride over all Scotland, with a switch in one hand and £100 in the other, which he could not have done during these five hundred years"

#### **Robert Blake, the Soldier Admiral**

England, having subdued her rebels at home, now had to turn her attention to an outside foe. The Dutch at this time were trying to monopolize the trade of the Spice Islands, and endeavouring to keep Englishmen from the seas. In fact, they had massacred a number of English traders who had

attempted to carry on their trade in the East Indies. Moreover, they had a large shipping trade and a fine fleet of merchant ships with which they were endeavouring to capture the sea-transport trade of the world. So many of their ships were engaged in carrying merchandise for other countries that they became known as the "wagoners of the seas".

The English Parliament passed the Navigation Act in 1651 to encourage British trade. This provided that all goods coming into England must be carried in English ships or in the ships of the country from which the goods came. As Holland produced few goods, but extensively carried those of other nations, this Act was a great blow to her shipping trade, and inflicted serious loss upon her.

Thus war broke out.

Robert Blake had fought in the Civil War, and commanded troops for the Parliamentary armies with much distinction. At the siege of Taunton he gallantly held out for more than a year, and, as a reward for his bravery, he was made a "General of the Seas", and was given command of the fleets of the Commonwealth in 1649 at the age of fifty.

His first engagement was with Prince Rupert, whom he chased to Portugal and drove from thence into the Mediterranean, where he destroyed many of his ships. Thus he gained his first lessons in seamanship, and soon his exploits made the name of the Commonwealth respected and feared by all the nations of Europe.

Since the days of Elizabeth our naval supremacy had never been challenged, till Van Tromp, the





An English Warship laid down in 1636

great Dutch admiral, seriously threatened it. The Dutch were successful at the beginning of the war, and in 1652, after surprising Admiral Blake in the Channel, Van Tromp claimed a victory and sailed the Channel with a broom at his masthead. This was a symbol that he meant to sweep the English from the seas. Blake avenged this defeat in the following year, and he tied a whip to his masthead, as a token that he had given the Dutch a sound beating. There were several more encounters between the two navies, but Blake was now more than a match for the Dutch, and when peace was made, Holland paid a large sum to the English Parliament, and agreed to the Navigation Act.

Blake had now proved himself an admiral of great ability, and had ranged himself with the other great sea-commanders who have brought lustre to the name of England.

In 1655 Blake was dispatched with his fleet to the Mediterranean to punish the Bey of Tunis, who had allowed and encouraged his Moorish pirates to plunder English trading ships and capture English seamen. He completely wiped out the Moorish fleet in Tunis harbour, bombarded the land forts, and shattered them to pieces.

When England and Spain went to war, Blake and his fleet accomplished the brilliant feat of destroying the entire Spanish Treasure Squadron in Santa Cruz harbour—thus delivering a crushing blow to Spain. This was his last and crowning glory; for on his return to England four months later, he was

stricken with a mortal illness, dying on board his ship just as it entered Plymouth Sound. So was added another great and unsullied name to England's Roll of Honour.

#### **Cromwell as Protector**

The Rump Parliament mismanaged affairs in England for four years, when Cromwell decided to get rid of it. With troops standing by at Westminster, he entered the House, and, after listening for a time, stamped his foot as a sign for his soldiers to enter "You are no Parliament," he shouted to the members in anger. "Get you gone." Then, pointing to the mace, which is the symbol of authority in the House of Commons, he ordered a soldier to "take away that bauble". His troops having cleared the House, Cromwell locked the door and marched away with the key in his pocket.

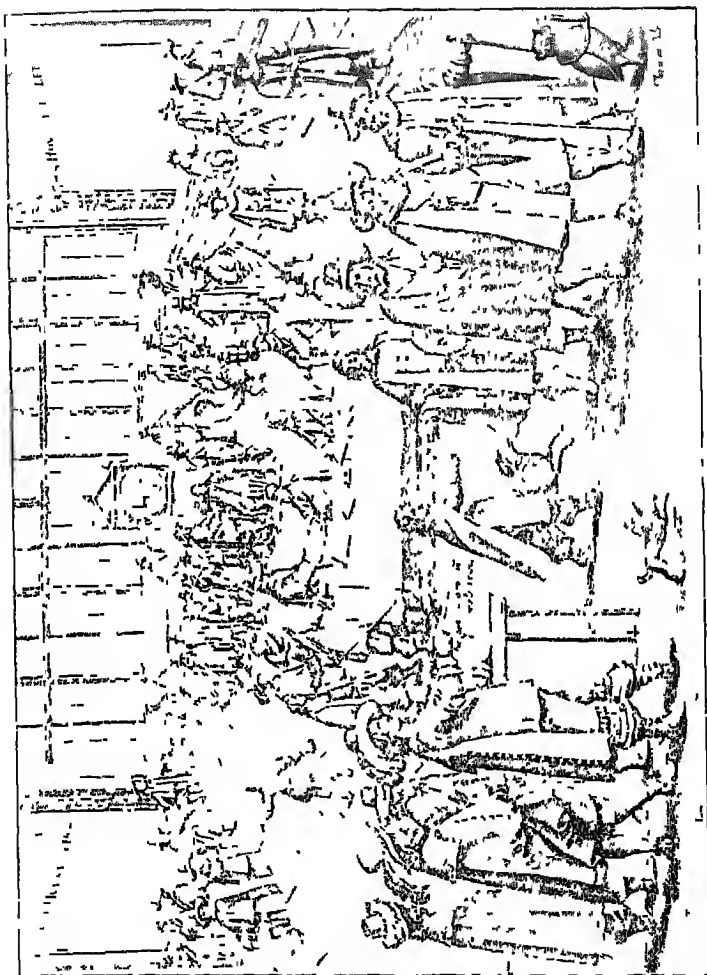
A few religious men were selected by Cromwell to form a curious assembly known as "Barebones' Parliament"—so named because one of its members was nicknamed by the Cavaliers "Praise-God-Barebones". This small Parliament was quite unable to deal adequately with the problems which arose, so they dismissed themselves. A council of officers next produced the "Instrument of Government," by which Cromwell was made "Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland". A council of state, with Cromwell as its head, was appointed to see that the laws made by Parliament were properly carried

our A succession of Parliaments met, but none proved capable of governing, and time after time Cromwell impatiently dismissed them

Finally, Cromwell introduced his "poor little invention", as he called it himself, whereby England was divided into ten districts, each under a Major-General with his army to support him. Now the Protector's rule was absolute—with his army in control all over the land to enforce his wishes. This was called the rule of the Puritan Saints, and was extremely unpopular with the English people. England could no longer be called "Merrie" under the gloomy rule of these Puritan officers. All public amusements were forbidden—no longer might people enjoy the pleasures of the theatres, which were all closed, or watch bear- and bull-baiting. Even dancing was prohibited, and Feast Days were abolished, so that they might not even celebrate Christmas in their old way

The following extract for Christmas Day, 1657, appeared in a contemporary diary "I went to London with my wife to celebrate Christmas Day. Sermon ended as Mr. Gunning was giving us the Holy Sacrament, the Chapel was surrounded by soldiers, and all the communicants and assembly surprised and kept prisoners by them—some in the house, some carried away. In the afternoon came Colonel Whalley and others from Whitehall to examine us one by one, some were committed to the Marshall, some to prison"

The use of the English Prayer Book was forbidden, and members of the English Church could only



Cromwell expelling Parliament in 1653

The artist who drew this picture is poking fun at the Parliament

hold their services in secret, for the posts of their clergy were filled by Puritan pastors

Throughout England hostility to Puritan rule was growing.

Cromwell was offered the title of king by his second Parliament, but he dared not accept it, as the officers of his army hinted plainly their strong disapproval, saying they had fought against one king and would not have another. However, Cromwell continued to rule England and was king in all but name.

Cromwell died on 3rd September, 1658—the anniversary of his great victories at Dunbar and Worcester. Almost his last words were, "I would be willing to live to be further serviceable to God and His people, but my work is done. Yet God be with His people." So death claimed the great strong spirit that had guided England with an honesty of purpose never surpassed

Cromwell's work endured long after he had breathed his last. He had dealt a crushing blow to absolute monarchy, and never again do we find an English sovereign attempting to rule in the despotic manner of Charles I. Further, Cromwell made the name of England respected everywhere on the Continent. The fame of his matchless Model Army and his invincible fleet was a byword in Europe, and our prestige abroad had never been higher.

## HEADINGS AND HINTS FOR NOTES

## THE GREAT CIVIL WAR

Followers of Charles—Parliamentarians—Royalists, North and West—Parliamentarians, East and South—Cavaliers superior—Roundheads—Prince Rupert—Solemn League and Covenant

## OLIVER CROMWELL

Roundhead Leader—Horse soldiers—religious men—Ironsides—1644—Reorganize army—New Model Army—Earl of Montrose—Charles as prisoner—Holmby House—Parliament and Army quarrels—Charles seized—second Civil War—Colonel Pride—Rump—Charles's trial—his execution

## COMMONWEALTH

House of Lords—Republic—Ireland—Cromwell's cruelty—General Ireton—Scotland—Fairfax—Dunbar—Worcester—Charles's escape—General Monk.

## ROBERT BLAKE

Dutch aims—"Wagoners of the Sea"—Navigation Act—"General of the Seas"—Van Tromp—Dutch defeat—Result—The Bey of Tunis—Defeat of the Spanish Fleet—death

## CROMWELL AS PROTECTOR.

Rump Parliament dismissed—Barebones' Parliament—Instrument of government—Puritan rule—amusements and pleasures—religion—Cromwell's death—results of his rule

## EXERCISES

- 1 What do you understand by (a) The Cavaliers?  
(b) The Roundheads?
- 2 Why were the Royalists considered superior at the beginning of the Civil War?
- 3 Why were the Ironsides so successful?
- 4 Write a few lines about Oliver Cromwell
- 5 Describe how Cromwell dealt with the rebellions in Ireland
- 6 Relate two incidents during the escape of Charles Stewart
- 7 Give a short account of the life of Robert Blake
- 8 What was Cromwell's title? What other title was offered to him, and why did he refuse it?
- 9 Say what you can about the rule of the Puritans
- 10 Write one fact about each of the following Prince Rupert, Earl of Montrose, Colonel Pride, General Ireton, Van Tromp
- 11 What event is connected with each of the following dates 1642, 1644, 1645, 1648, 1649, 1651, 1658?

## MAPS AND CHARTS

- 1 On a blank map of England mark the places connected with the Civil War
- 2 Draw a Time Chart showing the progress of the Civil War.

## EXTRACT

## THE INFLUENCE OF OLIVER CROMWELL

"To reduce three nations (England, Ireland, Scotland) which perfectly hated him, to an entire obedience to all his dictates, to awe and govern those nations by an army that was not devoted to him and wished his ruin, was an instance of a very prodigious address



"But his greatness at home, was but a shadow of the glory he had abroad. It was hard to discover which feared him most, France, Spain, or the Low Countries, where his friendship was current at the value he put upon it. As they did all sacrifice their honour and their interest to his pleasure, so there is nothing he could have demanded that any of them would have denied him.

"He was not a man of blood—in the council of officers it was more than once proposed "that there might be a general massacre of all the royal party, as the only way to secure the government", but that Cromwell would never consent to it, it may be out of too much contempt of his enemies"—*Clarendon History of the Great Rebellion*. (The Earl of Clarendon was the chief minister of Charles II. See pp 204–208—Tenth Period)

### EXERCISES ON EXTRACT

1. What do you learn from the above extract about Oliver Cromwell?
2. What do you know of his foreign policy?

### BOOKS FOR REFERENCE AND ADDITIONAL READING

- J G Edgar *Cavaliers and Roundheads*  
H Strang & R Stead *One of Rupert's Horse*.  
M Bowen *The Governor of England*  
J. S Fletcher. *When Charles I was King*  
Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch *The Splendid Spur*  
G. A. Henty. *Friends though Divided*  
Captain Marryat *Children of the New Forest*  
F S Brereton: *In the King's Service*  
W H G Kingston *The Boy who sailed with Blake*  
W H Ainsworth *Boscobel*  
C. J C Hyne *Prince Rupert the Buccaneer*  
Samuel Pepys *Diary*

## NINTH PERIOD

### LIFE IN STEWART TIMES

#### Dress in the 17th Century

During the reign of James I, costumes of men and women continued much as they had been in Elizabeth's day. Ruffs, bolstered breeches, and huge farthingales were still worn



Court-dress, time of Charles I

Lady in winter  
dress, time of  
Charles I

Royalist in time of  
Commonwealth

Costumes of

When Charles I reigned, there were two distinct types of apparel. The cavalier dressed richly in cloak of velvet, brightly coloured silken doublet, and narrow breeches trimmed at the knee with rosettes. Instead of the high, starched ruff, he wore a large falling collar of costly lace, or fine linen edged with lace. He had a loose fitting coat, with sleeves slashed to show a shirt of the finest cambric beneath, and, when out of doors, he placed over his long flowing curls a wide-brimmed hat of beaver, ornamented with ostrich feathers, and he wore high



Puritans

Court-dress, time  
of Charles II

Wealthy Merchant

wide-topped leather boots. The lady of Charles I's time had discarded the farthingale, and wore, instead, a wide, full skirt of satin or velvet, which fell in graceful folds and was fastened back to show a prettily trimmed lace petticoat. The bodice was tight, and often beautifully hand-embroidered. It had a large collar and cuffs of exquisite lace. Long gauntlet gloves were favoured, and were always richly embroidered and highly perfumed.

The Puritans disapproved entirely of this costly and "showy finery", as they termed it, and adopted a sombre attire which contrasted strongly with the one just described. For the most part they wore their hair closely cropped—the word Roundhead was applied to them on this account. A plain coarse serge cloak and suit of sombre hue, with a small plain linen collar and a tall-crowned hat of dark coloured felt, was the dress worn by all Puritans of the seventeenth century. A Puritan lady was similarly attired in drab gown of heavy cloth, entirely plain, and relieved only by severe collar and cuffs of linen or cambric. When on a journey, a large hood covered the head and a long cloak protected its owner from the cold.

With the return of Charles II, costumes of men and women became gayer and more costly than they had ever been before. This was probably due to the long period of restraint that had been endured while England was under Puritan rule. Pepys, in his wonderfully-informative *Diary*, described some dresses worn at a Court ball after the Restoration: "A gown of black and white lace, and her head

and shoulders dressed with diamonds—and the king (Charles II) in his rich vest of some rich silk and silver trimming, as the Duke of York and all the dancers were, some cloth of silver, and others of other sorts, exceedingly rich ” Wigs or perukes became common among men, especially Roundheads, who now wished to conceal the closely-cropped head, so typical of the late king's enemies Shoes were buckled for the first time, and “ I now observe that women begin to paint themselves, formerly a most ignominious thing ”, wrote John Evelyn in 1664.

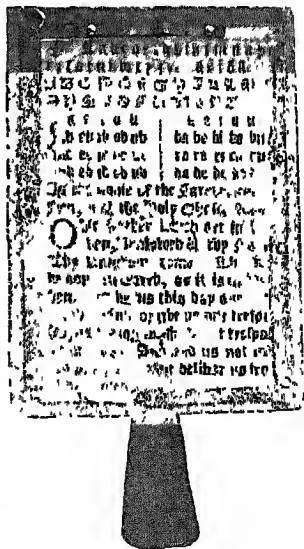
### Stewart Children

From the beautiful paintings of such famous men as Van Dyck, Lely, and Honthorst, we see that the Stewart children were dressed exactly like their parents.

The great love such men as Strafford, Buckingham, and Charles I bore their children shows the great affection which Stewart parents had for their offspring There is no sadder story than the parting scene between the doomed Charles I and his little son and daughter.

At a very early age, children were taught their alphabet from a horn-book, on which appeared the Lord's Prayer, with the letters of the alphabet above

Then it was common for Latin, French, and Greek, with



A Horn-book

severe religious instruction, to be taught even in the nursery. We are told that Richard Evelyn, son of the famous Diarist, "at two and a half years could read perfectly any of the English, French, Latin, or Gothic letters, pronouncing the first three languages exactly" It is not surprising that the child died at the age of five "of six fits of a quartan ague". When the nursery stage was over, a tutor was engaged in the wealthy homes, or the boys were sent to the local grammar school. There were no schools for girls at this period

At Eton, in 1645, we are told that the boys rose at "five of the clocke in the morning, and after a psalm sung and prayers heard, sweep the chamber as they were wont to do" On Sundays they were required to attend service twice, and then write a full account of the sermon. Latin and Greek were considered the most important subjects, and all sons of gentlemen were expected to speak and write these languages. Any disobedience or misdemeanour was dealt with most severely—sound whippings, and flogging with the birch, were frequent and numerous. The daughters of the rich were instructed in the arts of cooking, preserving, distilling, fine sewing and embroidery, dancing, singing, and music

Scanty provision was made for the education of poor children. Occasionally, the village or town possessed a free school, endowed by a rich merchant gild or a wealthy layman. Also, there were a few small schools where children were prepared in a very haphazard way for entry to the grammar schools. Finally, the children of paupers had

charity schools, where they were taught a trade or craft, after learning to read and write.

### The Newspaper

During the Civil War, when men were fighting so far from their homes and in so many different places, it became the custom for those who could afford it, to engage a man or news-writer to send them letters at regular intervals, giving news of battles, Court, &c.

Next appeared news-books, giving all the items of news which their writers could obtain. These were eagerly sought by the people in the villages, and were carried by pedlars and travelling tradesmen. Frequently, the information contained in these two-paged books was greatly exaggerated or entirely false—thus wild stories were spread by the news-writers who abounded at this time.

Advertisements now began to appear, the following being one inserted in a news-book of 1660: "We must call upon you again for a black dog, between a greyhound and a spaniel, no white about him, only a streak on his breast, and tail a little bobbed. It is His Majesty's own dog and doubtless was stolen—for the dog was not born or bred in England and would never forsake his Master. Whoever finds him may acquaint any at Whitehall, for the dog was better known at Court than those that stole him. Will they never leave robbing His Majesty?" (Charles II.)

An earlier advertisement in 1655 advertised the new drink, coffee, "a simple Innocent thing, in-

comparable good for those that are troubled with melancholy ”

The first newspaper appeared in 1665. It was called the *Oxford Gazette*, and consisted of a single sheet of paper, containing two columns of news on each side.

During the reign of James II, the first daily newspaper appeared; and, in the early eighteenth century, newspapers appeared in many parts of the country. These were circulated freely everywhere, and all classes of the community began to take an interest, hitherto unknown, in national life and politics.

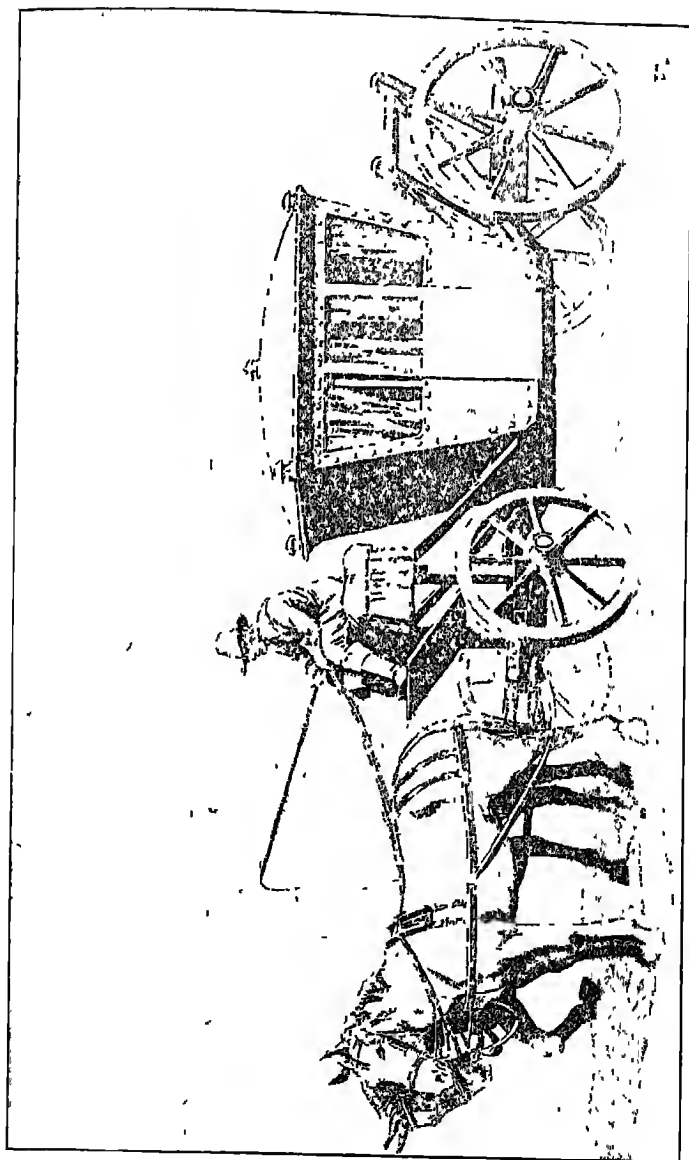
### Travel

In the seventeenth century there was a great development in coach building, as wheeled conveyances were becoming increasingly popular for both long and short journeys. Coaches, wagons, and chaises were used instead of horseback.

In 1649 Chamberlayne wrote, “There is of late such an admirable commodiousness to the principal towns of the country, that the like has not been known in the world, that is, by stage coaches, wherein anyone can be transported, sheltered from foul weather and foul ways, and this at the low price of about a shilling for every five miles.”

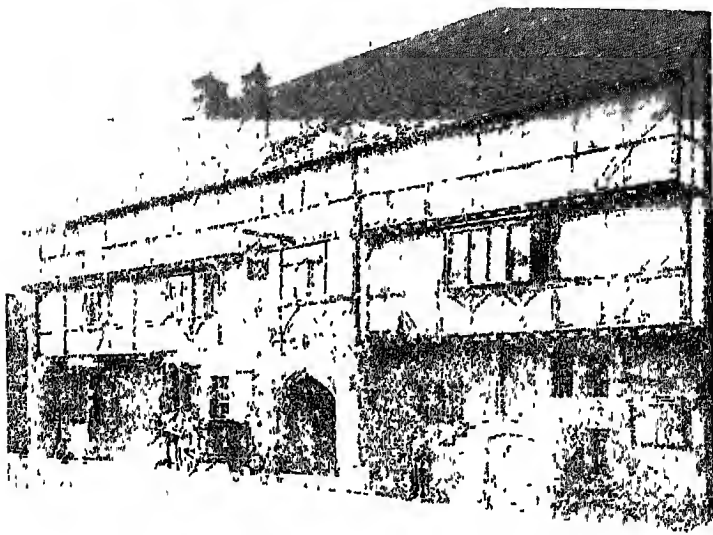
These coaches were large, four-wheeled, covered vehicles, and carried people both inside and out. There was a large receptacle for luggage, and a guard's seat or dicky, as it was called, at the back, while the driver rode in front with his team of four





A Coach of the seventeenth century

or six horses. There was always keen competition to obtain the seat beside the driver, for he had all the news of the villages through which he passed, and knew most of the villagers too; and he related many a funny story with many a joke, as his coach lumbered on. It was a very unpleasant experience to travel



An Inn which has changed very little since the seventeenth century

inside, for the coaches were without springs and were jolted ceaselessly from side to side by the deep ruts in the bad roads. Thus the poor passengers generally alighted, covered with bruises.

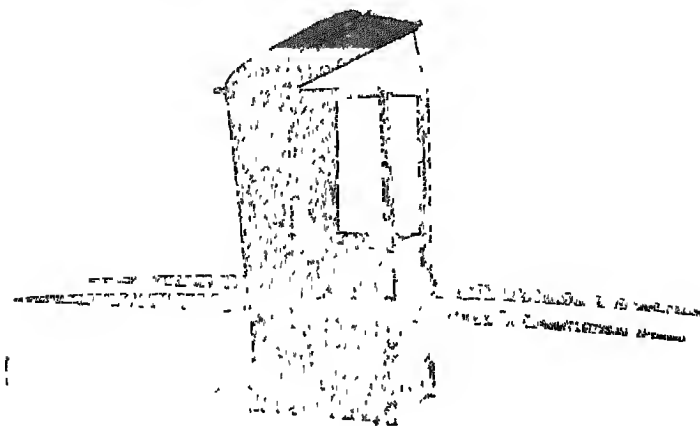
As the name suggests, long journeys were taken by stages. Inns were chosen on the route, where fresh relays of horses were kept in readiness, passengers were put down and others picked up, and

a night's lodging obtained for those whose journey occupied more than a single day. Coaches only travelled by day, as the roads were unsafe for night travelling

The inns of the seventeenth century benefited greatly from the increasing number of coaches which plied between all the principal towns, and from a contemporary description it seems that their hospitality, fare, and accommodation were excellent for the times. "The world affords not such Inns as England hath, either for good and cheap entertainments at the guest's own pleasure, or for humble attendance on passengers. For as soon as a passenger comes to an Inn, the servants run to him, and one takes his horse and walks him till he be cold, then rubs him and gives him meat. Another servant gives the passenger his private chamber and kindles his fire; the third pulls off his boots and makes them clean; and when he sits at table, the Host and Hostess will accompany him, while he eats, he shall be offered music which he may freely take or refuse, and if he be solitary, the musicians will give him the good day with music in the morning"

Highwaymen, or mounted robbers, lay in wait for the coach on lonely moors and any thickly wooded stretches of country near which it had to pass. These road thieves became such a menace that great rewards were offered for their capture, and the punishment for their crime was the gibbet.

A post-chaise was usually engaged by the rich for long journeys, as it was quicker and more comfortable than the stage coach. It was a light, four-wheeled,



A Sedan Chair

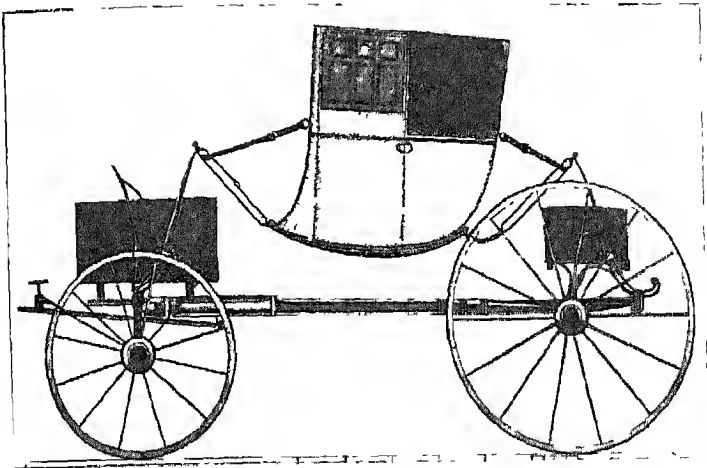
closed vehicle, and was drawn by teams of horses which were renewed at stated inns, like those of the stage coach. Each pair of horses had a post-boy or "postilion" who rode astride the horse. "Flying coaches" appeared in 1677, and these travelled about forty-five miles a day. Thus the journey from London to Oxford could be accomplished in about twelve hours

For the poor there were low covered wagons, very draughty and uncomfortable, but cheap.

The great increase in heavy traffic made the roads, which were already wellnigh impassable at some seasons of the year, even worse. As the upkeep of all roads was undertaken by the parishes in which they lay, the cost of repairing the damage became a heavy burden. So it became necessary to devise some means of increasing the slender

sum available from the local rates. Thus toll gates and turnpikes were set up on all the main roads, towards the middle of the seventeenth century, to collect money for the improvement and upkeep of the roads, and for the construction of new ones where desirable. This led to a great improvement in the condition of the roads, as a regular sum became available for their maintenance. Toll gates remained a familiar feature of main road travel until well into the nineteenth century, but there are now very few left in England.

Coaches for hire, called "hackney" coaches, were first used in London, and by 1662 there were 2400, as well as large numbers of private coaches. Pepys describes his coach as follows. "And so we went along through the town with our new liveries of serge, and the horses manes and tails tied with



A Post-chaise

red ribbons, and the standards gilt with varnish, and all clean, and green reines, that people did look mightily upon us; and the truth is, I did not see any coach more pretty, though more gay, than ours, all the day." (1st May, 1669.)

Sedan chairs were introduced into England during the reign of James I; and in 1634, when a patent was granted for the right to hire them out in London, they became very popular, and were a very fashionable form of conveyance. They were like armchairs with a covering, and they had two poles which passed through rings in the sides of the vehicle. A bearer in front and one behind carried the occupant from place to place.

### Literature

The Stewart period was rich in literature. Shakespeare did not die until 1616, and although some of his tragedies were written in the reign of James I, it is usual to include his works among Elizabethan literature, as it was in Elizabeth's day that he produced his best plays. Omitting Shakespeare, John Milton was the most outstanding literary man in the seventeenth century.

### John Milton

Milton was born in London in 1608, and his boyhood was passed in an atmosphere of culture; for his father, though not wealthy, had ample means, and was a lover of literature and music. Milton was given a very good education. First he attended the famous St. Paul's School in London, and then, at

the age of seventeen, he became a student at Christ's College, Cambridge. It was his father's intention that John should become a clergyman, but his sympathies, like those of his father, were strongly Puritan; and as the Church at that time was ruled by the High Church party, Milton's conscience forbade him carrying out his father's wish. So he completed his degree, and then, at the age of twenty-four, retired to his father's country house at Horton, Buckinghamshire. Here were produced the delightful country idylls *L'Allegro* and *Il Penseroso*, and *Lycidas*, that tenderly affecting poem, written on the death of a close friend. After five years at Horton, Milton travelled abroad. While in Italy, bad news from England caused him to abandon the rest of his tour and return hurriedly. He said it was "base to be travelling for amusement, while my fellow citizens were fighting for liberty".

The Civil War broke out soon after, and for some years Milton devoted himself to politics. He wrote a famous pamphlet pleading "For civil and religious freedom, for freedom of social life, and freedom of the press". After the execution of Charles I, Milton wrote a pamphlet to justify his death, and as a reward he was made Latin Secretary of the committee for foreign affairs. The poet continued to work for the Puritan cause, and published pamphlets from time to time, defending, explaining, and upholding the policy of Cromwell at home and abroad. His eyes now began to fail him, and he gradually became completely blind. He continued to work for the Government, however,

for some time, dictating his letters to a secretary.

When Charles II returned at the Restoration, Milton was obliged to live in strict retirement—for he was extremely unpopular on account of his association with the regicides. However, the Merrie Monarch was not vindictive, and Milton was allowed to live obscurely for the rest of his life in a little cottage on the outskirts of London. Here he wrote his most famous poems, *Paradise Lost* and *Paradise Regained*. The first poem tells of the temptation and fall of Adam and Eve, and the second of the temptation of Jesus by Satan. Throughout these poems breathes the mighty genius of Milton, and they are the greatest epics in our language. In 1674 Milton died. He has been described as “not only the highest, but the completest type of Puritanism”.

### John Bunyan

As Milton was the greatest poet of this age, so John Bunyan was the greatest prose writer.

He was the son of a tinker of Elstow, and when he grew older he took up the work of his father and began to mend the pots and pans of the villagers. As a boy, he loved to join in the sports of his day, and was frequently to be seen dancing round the maypole or joining in the Morris dances on feast days. Tip-cat was his favourite outdoor game, and he frequently joined the bellringers at the village church and was allowed to help them. In quieter moments Bunyan began to wonder if God would be displeased at the part he took in the games with



the village youths, and gradually, one by one, he forsook all those things he had loved when a boy, and became a Puritan of the sternest kind. In the Civil War Bunyan fought against the king.

After his marriage Bunyan moved to Bedford to be nearer the church, and although he continued his tinkering on week days, he often preached on the Sabbath—for he was found to have a great gift for preaching. He now became a wandering minister, and acquired much fame in the Midlands. In 1660 the Puritans fell into disfavour, and unauthorized preaching was forbidden. Bunyan continued to preach in secret when the meeting house at Bedford was closed. When he was arrested for this, he boasted that, were he released, he would be preaching again on the morrow. The next twelve years of his life he spent in Bedford Gaol, where he occupied himself making tagged laces. These he sold to pedlars, and the money realized helped to support his family. He also spent much time reading and writing. In 1672 pardon was granted to Dissenters, in the "Declaration of Indulgence", so Bunyan was released.

He now became the pastor of a new meeting house in Bedford. It was during a further imprisonment, about 1675, that Bunyan began his greatest work, *The Pilgrim's Progress*. This book was so popular that, within ten years of its completion, a hundred thousand copies had been sold. The book tells the story of the pilgrim, Christian, who sets out from the City of Destruction in search of the Heavenly City. He encounters terrible

difficulties in his fight against evil, but finally, across the River of Death, gets a glimpse of the Holy City, his goal.

The last years of Bunyan's life were spent in ministering to the wants of the sick, comforting those in trouble, and preaching his well-loved gospel. He caught a fatal chill through a severe wetting on his return from Reading in 1688. Thither he had been on an act of mercy, to try to patch up a terrible quarrel between a father and son. Thus he died as he had lived, in the service of mankind.

### The Land

Seventeenth-century England was essentially an agricultural country. The distress caused by enclosures in the last century was dying down. There were still many manors where the old mediæval field could be seen with its scattered strips. On the common near by the sheep and cattle still grazed, and service was still rendered by the villagers as part payment for rent.

But more frequently the great estates had been converted into sheep pastures; for, with the high price and great demand for wool, the temptation to rear sheep was very great.

Improved methods of agriculture now began to be studied with great keenness by the landowning classes. It was discovered that the fallow field of the old system could be used with advantage to grow root crops every third year, instead of lying idle. Thus it became possible to feed cattle through the

winter instead of killing them in the autumn, as had been done in earlier times.

Robert Child advocated many reforms and more scientific methods of farming. Among these was manuring the soil. With the increase in the number of cattle kept now that the growth of root crops became widespread, there was plenty of manure available. The use of this improved the pasture land as well as the ploughed land, and it is estimated that returns from the land increased five-fold, while the richer pastures also gave better stock.

With all these improvements the price of land rose steadily, and the eagerness of rich and poor to acquire it was remarkable. Moreover, the land-owning classes became more prosperous than they had ever been before—from the labourer with his four acres, granted him by statute, to the great landlord with his vast estates. This prosperity showed itself in a marked degree in the increasing demands for the luxuries of life, and the homes and conditions of living of rich and poor improved tremendously during this century



A street water seller of the seventeenth century

## HEADINGS AND HINTS FOR NOTES

## LIFE IN STEWART TIMES.

*Dress in Seventeenth Century*

- (a) Cavalier—Velvet—Doublet—Breeches—Coat—  
Curls—Hat—Boots
- (b) Lady—Skirt—Petticoat—Bodice—Cuffs—  
Lace—Gloves—Perfume
- (c) Puritan—Sombre—Hair—Serge Cloak—Collar—  
Hat
- (d) Puritan Lady—Drab Gown—Collar—Hood—  
Cloak

*Stewart Children.* Parents' Love—Horn-book—Nursery  
—Richard Evelyn—Grammar Schools—Eton—Latin  
and Greek—Punishments—Daughters—Free Schools  
—Charity Schools

*Newspapers.* News-writer—News-books—Journalists—  
Advertisements—First Newspaper

*Travel.* Coaches—Driver—Roads—Stages—Inns—  
Night Travelling—Accommodation—Highwaymen  
—Gibbet—Post-chaise—"Flying Coaches"—  
Wagons—Toll Gates—Hackney Coaches—Sedan  
Chair

*Literature*

- (a) *John Milton* Boyhood—School—College—Puritan  
—Horton—"L'Allegro", &c.—Travel—Italy  
—Pamphlet—Blindness—Government  
Work—Cottage—London—Most Famous  
Poems—Death
- (b) *John Bunyan* Prose Writer—Tinker—Elstow—  
Boyhood—Puritan—Civil War—Bedford  
—Preaching—Wandering Minister—Bedford  
Gaol—Declaration of Indulgence—Prison—  
"Pilgrim's Progress"—Last Years—Death

*The Land* Distress—Commons—Sheep Pastures—Root  
Crops—Robert Child—Manure—Price of Land—  
Landowner—Conditions of Living

## EXERCISES

1. Show the difference between the dress of a Cavalier and a Puritan.
- 2 Write a short account of the Stewart children.
- 3 Describe the first newspaper and say how its circulation changed the life of the community
- 4 Imagine yourself a traveller in the seventeenth century, and describe a journey by stage coach
- 5 State one fact about each of the following Gibbet, "Flying Coach", Toll Gates, Hackney Coaches, Sedan Chairs.
- 6 How was a guest treated when he arrived at a seventeenth-century inn?
- 7 Write a brief account of the life of John Milton
- 8 Say what you know about John Bunyan
- 9 What led to the conversion of arable land into sheep pastures?
- 10 Why did land become more valuable at this time?

## EXTRACT

## A HIGHWAY ROBBERY IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

"The weather being hot, and having sent my man on before, I rode negligently under favour of the shade, till, within three miles of Bromley, at a place called the Procession Oak, two cut-throats started out, and striking with long staves at the horse and taking hold of the reins, threw me down, took my sword and haled me into a deep thicket, some quarter of a mile from the highway, where they might securely rob me, as they soon did. My horse was perhaps not taken, because he was marked and cropped on both ears, and well-known on that road. Left in this manner, grievously was I tormented with flies, ants, and the sun, nor was my anxiety little, how I should get loose in that solitary place, where I could neither hear nor see any creature, but my poor horse and a few sheep straggling in the copse. After near two hours' attempting, I got my hands to turn

palm to palm, having been tied back to back, and then it was long before I could slip the cord over my wrists to my thumb, which at last I did, and then soon unbound my feet, and saddling my horse and roaming awhile about, I at last perceived dust arise, and soon after heard the rattling of a cart, towards which I made, and, by the help of two countrymen, I got back into the highway I rode to Colonel Blount's, a great justiciary of the times, who sent out hue and cry immediately " *John Evelyn's Diary*

(John Evelyn was Secretary of the Royal Society founded by Charles II (see Period Ten) in 1672 His *Diary* covers the period from the Civil War to the beginning of the eighteenth century, and contains much valuable information on the life of his time )

### EXERCISES ON EXTRACT

- 1 What do you understand by " hue and cry "?
- 2 Why were incidents such as that described in the extract common in the seventeenth century?

### BOOKS FOR REFERENCE AND ADDITIONAL READING

- H R Wilton Hall *Social Life in England*  
 Victor Hugo. *By Order of the King*  
 M. & C H B Quennell *A History of Everyday Things in England—Book II*  
 Mary Coate *Social Life in Stuart England.*  
 John Evelyn *Diary*

## TENTH PERIOD

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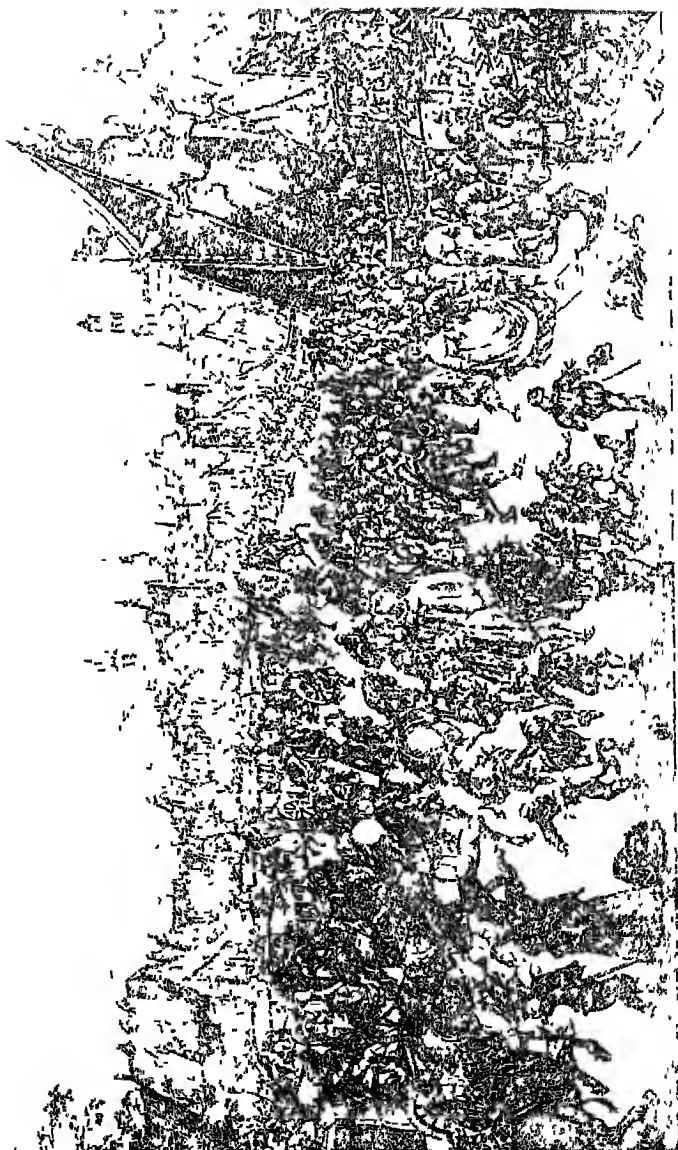
### FROM RESTORATION TO REVOLUTION.

1660-1689

#### The King Restored

On his death-bed Oliver Cromwell named as his successor his son Richard, a weak man with a mild, amiable disposition, but little strength of character. Richard was made Protector, but he was no soldier, and the army refused to obey him. Thus he soon resigned, and retired to his estates and the life he loved in the seclusion of the country. A year of confusion followed, when various army leaders aspired to Cromwell's position of Protector, but none succeeded in gaining any following.

Then General Monk, who was still in command of the army in Scotland and had been in secret communication with Charles Stewart, decided to take matters into his own hands. With a large force he marched southward, being joined on the way to London by Fairfax. On his arrival there, he disarmed the City and obtained the voluntary dissolution of the Rump Parliament, which had reassembled at the death of Cromwell. He then proceeded to assemble a Convention Parliament, which resolved that the monarchy should be restored. An invitation was sent to Charles, who was in Holland anxiously watching affairs in England. Charles replied at once, gladly accepting, and



Charles II landing at Dover



promising a general pardon, religious liberty, and return of lands seized during the Civil War. He also undertook to govern with the advice of Parliament.

He entered London on 29th May, 1660, his thirtieth birthday, amid scenes of such enthusiasm that Clarendon remarked, "A man could not but wonder where those persons were, who had done all the mischief, and kept the king for so many years, from enjoying the comfort and support of such excellent subjects".

Charles, who had been an exile since his escape from England at the end of the Civil War, determined "never to go on his travels again". He made up his mind to get as much enjoyment out of his kingship as he could.

England was heartily tired of Puritan rule. Opposition had been steadily growing since the execution of Charles I. The abolition of the House of Lords, the suppression of local and central government, and the establishment all over the country of military rule which pronounced all amusements, sports, and pastimes to be sins, made the English people rejoice exceedingly at the fall of the powers that had brought all these things to pass. The experiment of the Republic had been a failure. "A thing had happened never read of in history," wrote a contemporary, "that when monarchy was laid aside at the expense of so much blood, it shall return again, without the shedding of one drop".

Never did a king start to rule under more promising circumstances than did Charles II.

### Character of Charles II

The new king was gay and pleasure-loving, and, like his father, was not to be trusted. The promise he had so lightly given to grant a general pardon was soon broken, and all those still living who had been concerned in the execution of Charles I were put to death. Further, the bodies of Cromwell and the chief Roundhead leaders were removed from their tombs in Westminster Abbey, dismembered, and hung in chains on the gallows at Tyburn; after which they were thrown into a pit at the foot of the gallows.

Charles was a clever but indolent man, with the saving grace of humour, which showed itself markedly throughout his reign of twenty-five years. Pepys wrote of him, "the King do mind nothing but pleasure, and hates the very sight and thought of business." He was very extravagant, and the morals of his Court were bad—coarse wit and vulgar pleasures of all kinds being the order of the day. A friend of Pepys wrote, "the King and Court were never so bad as they are now, for gaming and swearing, women and drinking."

### Progress of Science

However, Charles took a great interest in science, art, and literature. He loved to experiment in chemistry, and encouraged learned inquirers after knowledge to meet for general discussion. He founded the Royal Society in 1662, becoming its first President. It was called the Royal Society of

London for improving Natural Knowledge, and it met weekly at Gresham College

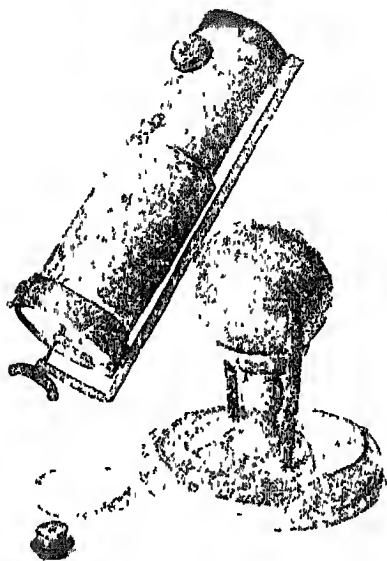
The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries saw many important scientific discoveries.

Galileo, an Italian astronomer, hearing that glass which caused distant objects to appear near had been made in the Netherlands, formed the idea of constructing the first telescope for watching the stars. From observations with his new telescope he made many wonderful discoveries, among these, that the sun spins round on its axis like the earth, and that sun spots move across the sun. Churchmen declared this was impossible, and said that Galileo's eyesight was impaired. Later he was summoned to Rome and obliged to withdraw many of his new theories.

William Harvey, by close investigation, found that the blood is pumped from the heart round the body, whence it returns to be purified for further use. This theory of the circulation of the blood was at first discredited, but gradually, when it was a proved fact, doctors realized what a highly important discovery Harvey had made.

Sir Isaac Newton, the great scientist and mathematician, was a member of the Royal Society in Charles II's reign. It was the fall of an apple from a tree in his father's orchard that first caused Newton to think of the force of gravity. He also experimented with rays of light, and by means of a prism discovered that light could be split up into the seven colours of the rainbow.

Sir Christopher Wren, the architect, of whom you



The Reflecting Telescope made by Sir Isaac Newton

will read more in this period, was another distinguished member of the newly founded Royal Society.

### Religious Difficulties

Parliament meant England to return to the rule of Bishops, and at once set about to restore the Episcopal Church. Harsh laws were passed against dissenters, under the guidance of Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon, who was the king's chief adviser for the first seven years of his reign. Clarendon had served Charles with great loyalty, following him everywhere in his exile, but, unlike the king, he was strongly opposed to liberty of worship

In his heart, Charles secretly hoped to restore England to Roman Catholicism, and for this object he worked unceasingly all through his reign. He stooped to the basest acts to try to bring about its accomplishment. However, his Parliament was resolved otherwise. By the Clarendon Code, named after its most fervent supporter, a series of laws were passed to force High Church doctrines on everyone. The Code declared that

1. All who held offices in town government should take the Communion of the Established Church.

2. The Prayer Book must be used in all public worship, and must be acknowledged by all clergymen.

3. None but the followers of the Church of England could preach, or teach in any school, or live within five miles of any place where they had formerly preached or taught.

Two thousand clergy gave up their livings as a result of the Clarendon Code. Many who continued to preach in secret were cruelly persecuted and thrown into prison. You read in the last Period of John Bunyan, who was one of those who suffered for their beliefs. He spent twelve years in Bedford Gaol.

Others left England, as their ancestors, the Pilgrim Fathers, had done in the reign of James I, sailing to new lands where they could worship God in their own way. A sect called "Friends", or Quakers, refused steadfastly to give up their

beliefs, and a number of them, with the great and good William Penn as their leader, founded the American colony of Pennsylvania in 1680. Charles himself objected to the Clarendon Code, and tried to persuade Parliament to repeal its Acts. Being unsuccessful, he issued a Declaration of Indulgence in 1672, which granted freedom of worship to Puritans and Roman Catholics alike. Parliament replied to this by the Test Act of 1673, which forbade the holding by Puritans or Roman Catholics of any office under the Crown. Even the Catholic Duke of York, who held office under the Admiralty, was compelled to resign his post. This Act was not repealed until the nineteenth century.

#### The Second Dutch War

It is to Charles's credit that he was genuinely anxious to increase the trade of England and to extend her colonies. So, jealous of his chief rivals, the Dutch, he declared war on them in 1664. The Duke of York, commanding the English fleet, won a great victory off Lowestoft in 1665, and a number of minor victories followed.

Then in 1667, thinking our mastery of the sea had been established, Charles disbanded the fleet. His main idea was to use the money voted for its upkeep for his own personal extravagances, which were very great. The Dutch seized this opportunity to avenge their defeats, by sailing up the Thames, bombarding and destroying the ships and ports, and sailing away with the Admiral's ship to Holland. Of this incident Evelyn declared, "A dreadful



Quakers in the seventeenth century. A picture of the Marriage of William Penn

spectacle, and a dishonour never to be wiped off " It is said that the king, in company with many of his profligate courtiers, was chasing a large moth in the palace gardens when news of this disaster was brought to him. Thus heavily rested the cares of State on his shoulders!

Englishmen, much angered at this insult, which they declared was the greatest disgrace England had ever known, blamed the Earl of Clarendon, and impeached him. In spite of the long and faithful services he had given to the king, Charles, with the base ingratitude so typical of the Stewarts, made no effort to save his minister. Clarendon escaped to France, where he spent the rest of his life. His *History of the Great Rebellion*, which was written during his banishment, gives a wonderful picture of England during the Civil War, and is invaluable for historical reference. An inglorious peace was made with the Dutch in 1667. New Amsterdam, which was renamed New York in honour of the sailor Prince, the Duke of York, was handed over to England by the Dutch.

### The Great Plague

Meanwhile, a terrible calamity befell London in 1665. You know that the streets in those times were narrow and sunless, moreover, as there was no system for cleansing them or draining away refuse, this was allowed to collect and lie about in the "kennel". Consequently, nauseous smells were common, especially in summer when the weather was hot. It was no uncommon thing for a pedestrian



to be covered with the rubbish thrown out of pails from the upper storey windows of these seventeenth-century houses. Small wonder that plagues broke out from time to time. You will remember the Black Death of the fourteenth century. The outbreak during the reign of Charles II was the most violent ever known, claiming nearly a hundred thousand victims. At the height of this awful visitation the scenes in London were appalling. Infected houses were marked with a red cross, and a watchman was stationed outside to prevent the occupants leaving or visitors entering. Thus the stricken victims were often left to breathe their last unattended, and surrounded by the dead. As the plague spread, it became impossible to afford the dead proper burial. Their bodies were collected in death carts, and tossed into huge pits dug for the purpose. The plague gradually died down during the winter, and the wealthy people, who had fled to escape infection, returned to the city once more.

"What staring to see a nobleman's coach come to town? And porters everywhere to bow to us, and such begging of beggars. And delightful it is to see the town full of people and the shops begin to open," wrote Samuel Pepys in his *Diary* on his arrival once more in London.

#### The Great Fire—1666

Close on the plague followed the Great Fire of London, which lasted four days and nights. It broke out near London Bridge, and the flames, fanned by a strong wind, spread along the Thames

side rapidly, consuming warehouses and store-houses. As the houses were built largely of wood, the conflagration spread quickly from street to street. The following is a description of the Fire from John Evelyn's *Diary*, written on 2nd September, 1666

" This fatal night, about ten, began that deplorable fire near Fish Street in London. The fire having continued all this night (if I may call that night which was as light as day for ten miles round about) and driven by a fierce east wind in a very dry season, I saw the whole south part of the city burning from Cheapside to the Thames, and all along Cornhill—and the fire was now taking hold of St Paul's Church. The conflagration was so universal, and the people so astonished that from the beginning they hardly stirred to quench it, so that there was nothing heard or seen but crying out and lamentation, and running about like distracted creatures without at all attempting to save their goods. It burned both in length and breadth, the Churches, Public Halls, Exchange, Hospitals, Monuments, and ornaments, leaping after a wonderful manner from house to house and street to street. Here we saw the Thames covered with goods floating, and the carts carrying out to the fields, which for many miles were strewn with moveables of all sorts. All the sky was of a fiery aspect, like the top of a burning oven, the light seen above forty miles round for many nights. God grant my eyes may never again behold the like, nor see above ten thousand houses all in one flame. The noise

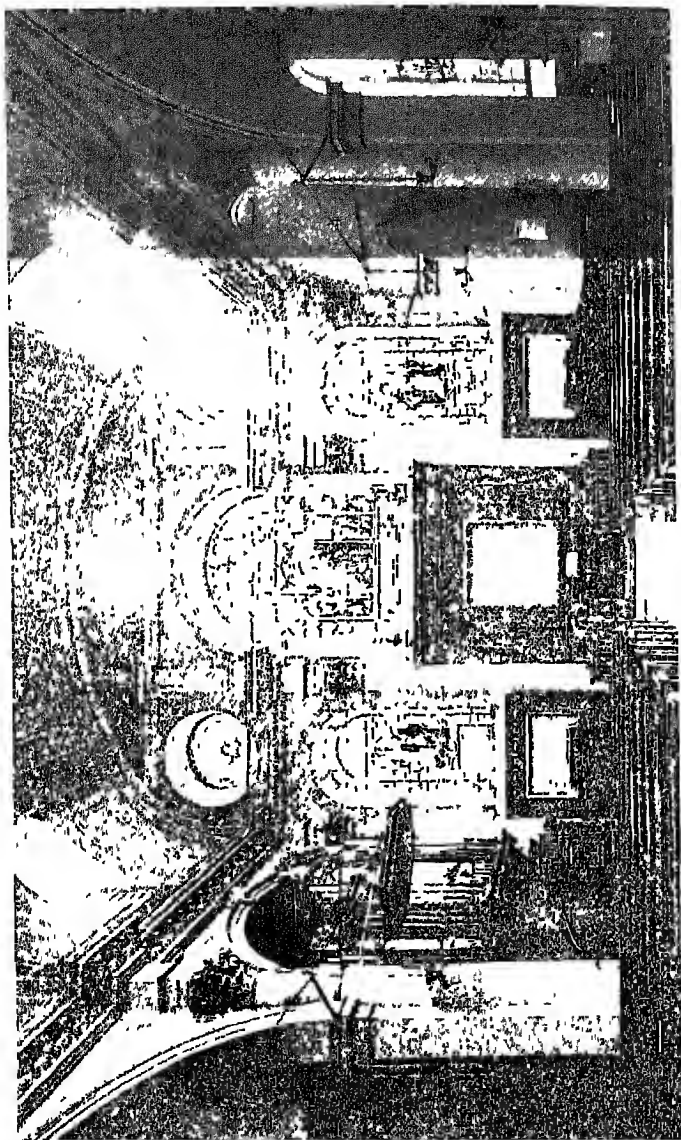
and creaking and thunder of the impetuous flames, the shrieking of women and children, the hurry of people, the fall of towers, houses, and churches, was like an hideous storm, and the air all about so hot and inflamed, that at last, one was not able to approach it. The clouds of smoke were dismal, and reached nearly fifty miles in length. London was, but is no more!"

It is to the king's credit that he made determined efforts to stop the fire, and finally, he ordered the fleet to blow up with gunpowder whole rows of houses to stay the flames. Of course, fire engines were unknown at this time. In this way the fire was at last got under, but enormous damage had been done. A hundred thousand people were rendered homeless; eighty-four churches, besides Old St. Paul's and the Guildhall, were burned down; thirteen thousand two hundred houses were demolished; but it is said that only a dozen lives were lost.

### London Rebuilt

Much good afterwards resulted from the Great Fire, for London was rebuilt with wider streets, where fresh air and sunlight could penetrate with ease. Houses of stone and brick were erected, and the last remnants of the Plague were stamped out.

Sir Christopher Wren, the famous architect of this time, rebuilt St. Paul's Cathedral and fifty-four London churches, besides numerous other buildings, many of which are standing to-day. The tomb of this great man is in St. Paul's Cathedral,



Inside a church designed by Sir Christopher Wren

and on it appears the following Latin inscription

“SI Monumentum Requiris, Circumspice”

This means, “If you seek his monument, look around you.”

People now began to pay increased attention to the interior decoration of their houses and public buildings. Grinling Gibbons was the greatest carver and sculptor of this age. He was discovered by John Evelyn, the Diarist, in 1671. “I found him,” says Evelyn, “shut in a poor solitary thatched house, in a field in our parish, near Sayes Court; but looking in at a window, I perceived him carving a huge cartoon of Tintoret from Venice. I asked him if I might enter, and questioned him why he worked in such an obscure and lonesome place; he told me that he might apply himself to his profession without interruption. I asked him if he would be willing to be made known to some great man, for that I believed it might turn to his profit.”

Evelyn introduced the young carver to Sir Christopher Wren, whose patronage he obtained. He worked for Wren, carving the choir stalls and many of the wood decorations in St Paul’s Cathedral, and in other notable buildings designed by his great patron. Many wonderful examples of his marvellous wood carving are still preserved at Blenheim Palace, Chatsworth, Petworth, and other great houses.

### The Cabal

After the fall of Clarendon, Charles II chose five ministers, Clifford, Arlington, Buckingham, Ashley,

and Lauderdale, who formed a secret council, or "Cabal" (a word made up from the initials of their names), to advise the king. They were chosen without consulting Parliament, and became very unpopular because they tried to bring about secret treaties with foreign powers, regardless of the wishes of Parliament. It was with the knowledge of at least two of the ministers of the Cabal that Charles made the secret Treaty of Dover with Louis XIV of France in 1670. By this Treaty Charles agreed to try to restore Roman Catholicism to England when a favourable opportunity occurred. Further, he promised to assist the French king against the Dutch, who were now allies of England. In return for these dishonourable promises, Charles received large sums of money from France, thus deliberately selling himself to France.

#### Wild Rumours

Titus Oates, a man of bad character and a liar, declared that Roman Catholics were plotting to murder Charles, destroy English Protestantism, and put the Catholic James, Duke of York, on the throne. The scoundrel had not a single proof to guarantee the truth of his story; but it was generally believed, and, in the panic that followed, many innocent Catholics were put to death and a dreadful persecution of Romanists followed.

A Bill was introduced into Parliament, called the Exclusion Bill, which sought to exclude from the English throne James, Duke of York, who was the heir-presumptive, as Charles II had no son. How-

ever, it did not become law, for both the king and the House of Lords refused to sanction its passing. Those who supported the natural succession were known as Tories, while those in favour of the Exclusion Bill were called Whigs. Macaulay writes, "Every county, every town, every family, was in agitation; friend quarrelled with friend, brother with brother, and even school boys were divided into angry parties". Thus were planted the seeds of party politics.

When Charles II died in 1685, there were few regrets. He was admitted into the Roman Catholic Church on his deathbed, and his humour did not desert him even at the last, for he apologized for "being such an unconscionable time dying".

#### James II — 1685-1688

As the Exclusion Bill had not become law, James, Duke of York, Papist though he was, succeeded his brother on the English throne. At his accession he promised "to preserve the laws inviolate, and to protect the Church of England". A rising in favour of the Protestant Duke of Monmouth, who was the natural son of Charles II, was easily repressed at the Battle of Sedgemoor. Monmouth was hounded down, and, in spite of his earnest entreaties for mercy, was beheaded. Lord Chief Justice Jeffreys was sent to try those rebels who had escaped death in battle. At the Assizes which he held in the West Country, he treated them with such horrible cruelty that his tour became known as the "Bloody Circuit". More

than three hundred people were condemned to death, and eight hundred were sent to the West Indies as slaves. Some were hung alive from the steeple, others were cut in pieces before they were quite dead, while many who had sheltered fugitives were burned alive.

In Scotland, the Duke of Argyll headed a party in support of Monmouth, but it, too, was stamped out.

#### Declaration of Indulgence

James II had two aims, which he kept in view, (1) to make England a Roman Catholic country, (2) to rule as an absolute king—for he believed in the Divine Right of Kings as persistently as his father, Charles I, had done.

To ease the severe laws in force against Catholics, James issued two Declarations of Indulgence, allowing liberty of worship to Catholics, setting aside the Test Act, which prevented Catholics taking offices of state.

He next began to place Roman Catholics in offices in the Navy, Army, Civil Service, and in the Universities at Oxford and Cambridge. When some of the Fellows objected to a Catholic as their Head, the king shouted, "I am King, I will be obeyed. Go to you this instant, and elect the Bishop. Let them refuse, look to it, for they shall feel the whole weight of my hand."



**The Trial of the Seven Bishops**

In 1688 James ordered the second Declaration of Indulgence to be proclaimed in all the churches. The Archbishop of Canterbury and six Bishops refused to do this, and begged the king to withdraw it. They were arrested on a charge of libel, and sent to the Tower to await their trial. "They passed to their prison amid the shouts of a great multitude, the sentinels knelt for their blessing as they entered its gates, and the soldiers of the garrison drank their healths." When they were acquitted, the bells of the churches pealed out, bonfires were lighted in the streets, and scenes of unparalleled rejoicing were manifest everywhere. "There was a lane of people from King's Bench to the waterside on their knees, as the bishops passed and repassed, to beg their blessing." Even the king's troops at Hounslow cheered when they heard the verdict, and the king, learning the reason for their joy, said, "So much the worse for them." This popular verdict sounded the death-knell of the king.

**The Glorious Revolution—1688**

Three weeks before the trial of the Seven Bishops, a son had been born to James II. Dreading that he might be brought up as a Roman Catholic like his father, leading men of all parties decided to invite Mary, the Protestant daughter of James II, and her husband, William, Prince of Orange, to come and help them to put an end to the misrule of James. The invitation was accepted, and William

sailed with his fleet along the English Channel, landing at Torbay, in Devonshire.

James tried frantically to undo the mischief of the last three years. He promised to respect the wishes of Parliament and to support the Church of England; but it was too late. Everyone welcomed William of Orange, and even the army joined him. James fled to France with his wife and infant son, and was kindly received by the French king. On his way thither he dropped the Great Seal into the Thames, foolishly thinking he could thus stop all State business. So he was not driven from his throne—he deserted it.

Early in 1689 William called a Convention Parliament, which declared James II to be no longer king of England, and settled the English Crown, jointly, on himself and his wife, Mary. This great change is known as the Glorious Revolution, and was brought about without bloodshed. At last the struggle between King and Parliament, which had lasted all through the reigns of the Stewart kings, had come to an end.

By the Bill of Rights, in 1689, the powers of the Crown and Parliament were clearly defined. England became a "limited" monarchy; and ever since, its kings have bowed to the wishes of Parliament and its chosen ministers.

## TIME CHART, 1603-1689

Year	Famous Events	Famous People
1603	James VI, Scotland, became James I of United Kingdom. 1605, Gunpowder Plot 1611, Authorized Version of the Bible	
1620	Sailing of the Pilgrim Fathers. 1625, Death of James " Charles I, King 1628, Petition of Right	Strafford. Laud.
1630		
1640	1642, Civil War 1644, Battle of Marston Moor. 1649, Execution of Charles I " Commonwealth	
1650	1655, Cromwell, Protector 1658, Cromwell's Death	Oliver Cromwell Robert Blake.
1660	Charles II, King 1665, Great Plague 1666, Great Fire 1685, Death of Charles " James II, King	Milton John Bunyan Samuel Pepys. Isaac Newton Christopher Wren.
1689	William and Mary	

## HEADINGS AND HINTS FOR NOTES

## FROM RESTORATION TO REVOLUTION 1660-1689.

*The King Restored:* Richard Cromwell—General Monk—  
Rump Parliament—Convention Parliament—Charles  
II Restored—Enjoyment—Failure of Republic

*Character of Charles II:* Pleasure Loving—Promises—  
Tyburn—Clever—Extravagant—Court

*Progress of Science* Charles's Interest—Royal Society—  
Gresham College—Galileo—Telescope—William  
Harvey—Sir Isaac Newton—Apple—Gravity—Prism  
—Sir Christopher Wren

*Religious Difficulties* Bishops' Rule—Earl of Clarendon—  
Roman Catholicism—Clarendon Code—Result—  
"Friends" or Quakers—William Penn—Declara-  
tion of Indulgence—Test Act

*Second Dutch War* Trade—Duke of York—Lowestoft—  
Dutch—Thames—Clarendon's Escape—Peace

*Great Plague.* Streets—Smells—Rubbish—London—  
Watchman—Bodies

*Great Fire* London Bridge—Spread of Fire—Houses  
Blown up—Result

*London Rebuilt:* Fresh Air—Stone Houses—St Paul's—  
Christopher Wren—Grinling Gibbons—Carvings

*The Cabal* Five Ministers—Secret Treaties—Treaty of  
Dover—English King's Promises—Dishonourable

*Wild Rumours* Titus Oates—Catholic Persecution—  
Exclusion Bill—Tories—Whigs—Death of Charles

## JAMES II

Promises—Monmouth—Sedgemoor—Judge Jeffreys—  
"Bloody Assize"—Duke of Argyll

*Declarations of Indulgence* Two Aims—Severe Laws—  
Roman Catholics—High Offices

*Trial of Seven Bishops* Protest—Archbishop of Canter-  
bury and Six Bishops—Charge of Libel—Prison—  
Acquitted—Scenes—Bonfires, &c

*Glorious Revolution* Mary—Prince of Orange—Misrule of James—Torbay—Flight of James—Throne Deserted—Convention Parliament—Bill of Rights—Limited Monarchy

## EXERCISES

- I Write a few sentences about the character of Charles II.
2. Name three men connected with scientific discoveries at this time, and state one or two facts about each one.
3. What laws made up the Clarendon Code, and why were they so named?
- 4 Write one or two facts about each of the following Sir Christopher Wren, Quakers, Declaration of Indulgence, William Penn, Test Act
5. Explain this quotation "A dreadful spectacle and a dishonour never to be wiped out"
- 6 Say what you know of the Great Plague and the Great Fire
7. What were the good results of the Great Fire?
- 8 What do you know of Secret Treaty of Dover, Titus Oates, Exclusion Bill, Whigs and Tories?
- 9 Write a few sentences about Judge Jeffreys, "Bloody Assize", Earl of Clarendon
- 10 Describe the trial of the Seven Bishops
- 11 What fact is connected with each of the following dates 1660, 1662, 1665, 1666, 1670, 1680, 1685?

## MAPS AND CHARTS

- 1 From the Time Chart make a list of the chief events and famous men of Stewart days
2. On a Time Line mark the dates of the following Hampton Court Conference, Authorized Version of the Bible, Death of Shakespeare, Battle of Naseby, Great Fire, Clarendon Code, Glorious Revolution,

## REVISION EXERCISES

1. Name one event connected with each of the following dates: 1605, 1611, 1620, 1644, 1665, 1688
2. Choose three of the following and write a few lines on each: Guy Fawkes—Earl of Strafford—Oliver Cromwell—Admiral Blake—John Bunyan—Christopher Wren—Sir Isaac Newton
3. What do you know of the following: Hampton Court Conference—Pilgrim Fathers—Petition of Right—New Model Army—Great Fire—Trial of Seven Bishops.
4. Say all you can about the following
  - (a) "What d'ye lack, come buy, come buy"
  - (b) "No bishop, no king"
  - (c) "He nothing common did or mean  
Upon that memorable scene."
  - (d) "Horn-books."
  - (e) "If you seek his monument, look around you"

## EXTRACT

## LONDON IN AUGUST, 1665, DURING THE GREAT PLAGUE

"Now people fall as thick as leaves in autumn when they are shaken by a mighty wind. Now there is a dismal solitude in London streets; every day looks with the face of a Sabbath day, observed with a greater solemnity than it used to be in the City. Now shops are shut up, people rare, and very few that walk about, in so much that the grass begins to spring in some places, and a deep silence is in every place especially within the walls. No prancing horses, no rattling coaches, no calling in customers nor offering wares, no London cries sounding in the ears. If any voice be heard, it is the groans of dying persons breathing forth their last, and the funeral knells of them that are ready to be carried to their graves. Now shutting up of visited houses (there being so many) is at an end, and most of the well are mingled among the sick, which otherwise

would have got no help. Now in some places, where the people did generally stay, not one house in a hundred but what is affected, and in many houses, half the family is swept away, in some, from the eldest to the youngest now the nights are too short to bury the dead the whole day, though at so great a length, is hardly sufficient to light the dead that fall thereon into their grave "

(Many dissenting clergymen who had been deprived of their Church of England livings on account of their beliefs remained in London during the Great Plague of 1665, and to their great credit ministered to the relief of those who suffered from it It was one of these clergymen who wrote this extract )

### EXERCISES ON EXTRACT

- 1 To what does the above extract refer? Write the description briefly in your own words
2. What were the main causes of this dreadful calamity?

### BOOKS FOR REFERENCE AND ADDITIONAL READING

M E Braddon *London Pride*  
 Cosmo Hamilton *His Majesty the King*  
 M Johnston *The Old Dominion*  
 W Besant *For Faith and Freedom*  
 Sir A C Doyle. *Micah Clarke*  
 Daniel Defoe. *Journal of the Plague Year.*  
 W H Ainsworth *Old St Paul's*  
 G A Henty *When London Burned*  
 R. D Blackmore *Lorna Doone*  
 Sir Walter Scott *Peveril of the Peak.*  
 Sir Walter Scott *Old Mortality*  
 H Strang. *Winning His Name*  
 R. Sabatini. *Captain Blood.*

## TWELVE MEMORABLE DATES

- 1492 Christopher Columbus discovered America.
- 1534 Act of Supremacy—Henry VIII declared Head of the Church in England
- 1577-1580 Drake's voyage round the world
- 1588 Defeat of the Spanish Armada.
- 1605 Gunpowder Plot
- 1616 Death of William Shakespeare
- 1620 Pilgrim Fathers landed in " New England "
- 1628 Petition of Right agreed to by Charles I
- 1649 Execution of Charles I
- 1665 Plague of London
- 1666 Fire of London
- 1688 Trial of Seven Bishops and landing of William and Mary of Orange.



